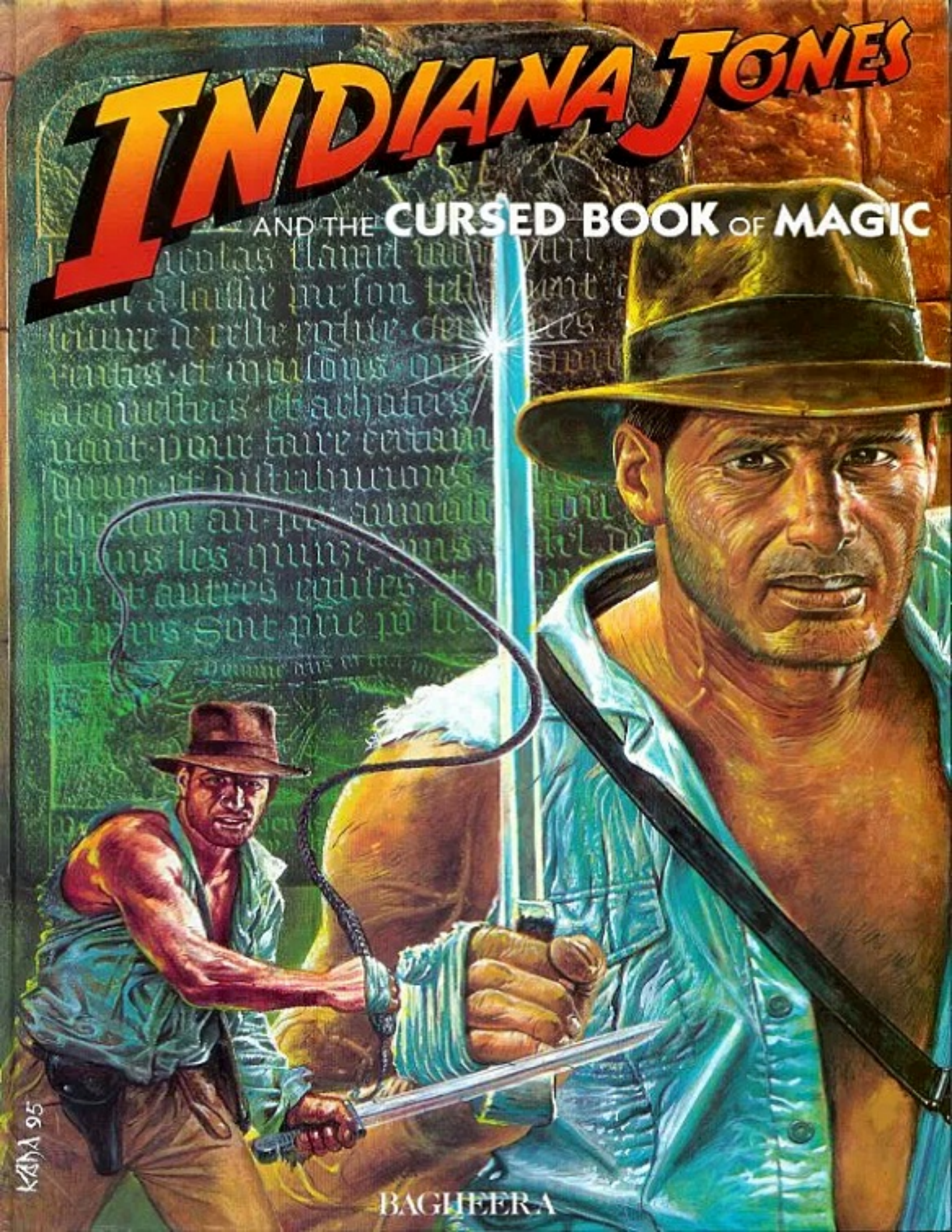


# INDIANA JONES

AND THE CURSED BOOK OF MAGIC



K&A 95

BAGHEERA

C. Moliterni - G. Alessandrini

# INDIANA JONES™

AND THE  
**CURSED BOOK OF MAGIC**



Colours : Jean-Pierre Sachsé  
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"Hide this book in your breast,  
and do not place it lightly in  
impious hands, for it contains the  
secret of secrets. One must  
not throw this pearl in the furnace,  
for it is a gift from God."

Judith Jones

April 1933.

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AULRICTOWN  
- ARKANSAS -  
1936.

MARK IT  
URGENT,  
PLEASE?

25 CENTS! HERE'S  
YOUR RECEIPT!



SERGEANT! COULD YOU ACCOMPANY  
ME TO MY CAR? I BROKE DOWN A  
FEW MILES FROM HERE. IT'S  
NIGHT TIME AND I'M TIRED.

HUH! WELL, AT  
YOUR SERVICE.



THIS IS CENTRAL...  
DO YOU READ ME, 415?  
415, DO YOU READ ME?  
URGENT MESSAGE!

415, HERE.  
OVER!

EMERGENCY! WE HAVE  
A HOLD-UP ALARM AT THE  
CORNER OF 3RD AVENUE  
AND PALMER STREET.



GORRY, SIR, BUT I HAVE  
AN URGENT PROBLEM TO  
ATTEND TO. GORRY!









**EUREKA!** THE BOOK OF ABRHAM THE JEW WOULD BE THE ONE THAT NICOLAS FLAMEL, THE ALCHEMIST FROM THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY, WOULD'VE HAD IN HAND AND GIVEN HIM THE SECRET TO THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE...

THIS BOOK LAUNCHES A CONTRADICTION AGAINST ALL THAT'S BEEN READ, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PRIESTS AND SCRIVENERS.

**WHAT LUCK THAT I'D BE A SCRIVENER!**



**HOW TO TRANSLATE THIS GRIMOIRE?...** NICOLAS FLAMEL HAD, WITHOUT SUCCESS, SEARCHED FOR THE HELP OF ALCHEMISTS TO PIECE THE SECRETS OF THIS OLD CRAFT, BEFORE BEING ABLE TO TRANSLATE IT THANKS TO AN OLD JEW. **AND WHY WAS IT SENT TO ME?** IS THERE A MESSAGE TO DISCOVER?...



WHO COULD HELP ME?



WHAT?



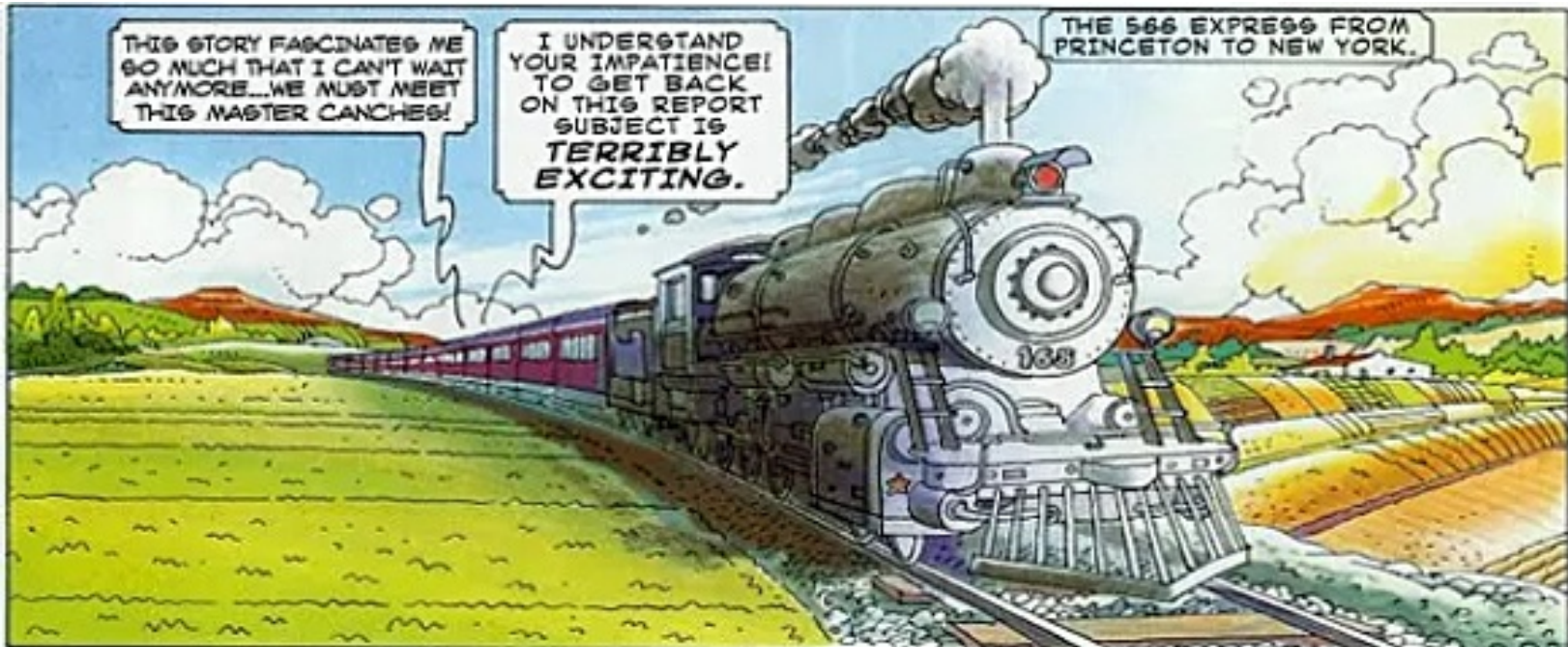




THIS STORY FASCINATES ME  
SO MUCH THAT I CAN'T WAIT  
ANYMORE...WE MUST MEET  
THIS MASTER CANCHES!

I UNDERSTAND  
YOUR IMPATIENCE!  
TO GET BACK  
ON THIS REPORT  
SUBJECT IS  
**TERRIBLY  
EXCITING.**

THE 566 EXPRESS FROM  
PRINCETON TO NEW YORK.



DRIVER, THE HEBRAIC  
LIBRARY OF BROOKLYN!



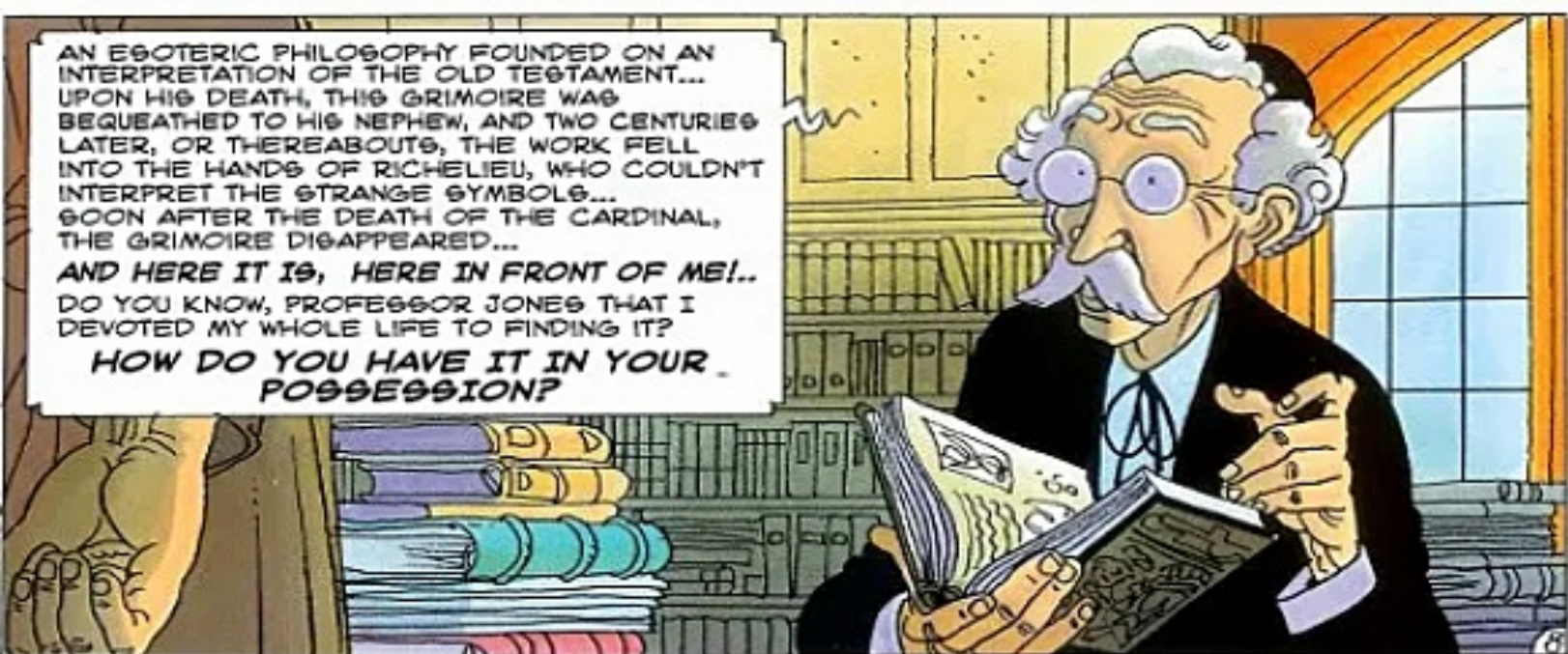
HOW DID YOU  
FIND CANCHES?

THANKS TO AN OLD  
FRIEND OF MINE:  
YOUR FATHER!



MY FATHER!  
THAT'S QUITE  
GOOD!





I RECEIVED IT BY MAIL,  
WITHOUT ANY SENDER'S NAME!

AH, THAT'S STRANGE! DO YOU KNOW THAT  
NICOLAS FLAMEL SEARCHED A VERY  
LONG TIME FOR AN ALCHEMIST WHO COULD  
PIERCE THE SECRETS OF THIS  
OLD GRIMOIRE. **WITHOUT SUCCESS!**  
FLAMEL UNDERSTOOD THAT THE SOLUTION  
WAS TO FIND A JEW WHO COULD  
DECIPHER IT.  
THIS WAS NOT EASY, BECAUSE THE  
JEWS WERE PERSECUTED AND  
MOST HAD BEEN CHASED  
FROM FRANCE.



HOWEVER, NINE YEARS LATER, FLAMEL  
CAME TO KNOW OF AN OLD, CONVERTED  
JEW AT SAINT JACQUES OF COMPOSTELLE.  
THIS OLD MAN EXPLAINED TO HIM  
THE MYSTERIOUS SYMBOLS.  
THEN, IN 1382, NICOLAS FLAMEL  
FABRICATED THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE  
AND USED IT TO TRANSFORM LEAD INTO  
SILVER AND MERCURY INTO GOLD.  
IN FIVE YEARS, FLAMEL SUCCEEDED  
**THREE TRANSMUTATIONS.**



CAN YOU GIVE US  
SOME INFORMATION?  
HAVE YOU MANAGED  
TO TRANSLATE IT?

YES, IT WILL TAKE ME A FEW DAYS...  
BUT, HERE, I HAVE PROOF THAT NICOLAS  
FLAMEL HAD REALLY FOUND THE SECRET  
OF THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE...HE EVEN  
STARTED TO TRANSLATE THE EGYPTIAN  
HIEROGLYPHS, WELL BEFORE CHAMPOLLION...  
FLAMEL WAS A GENIUS!



THE DIAGRAMS ARE THOSE OF  
THE AEGCH MEZAREPH OF RABBI  
ABRAHAM? THE LOST BOOK...  
HOW DID YOU FIND IT?

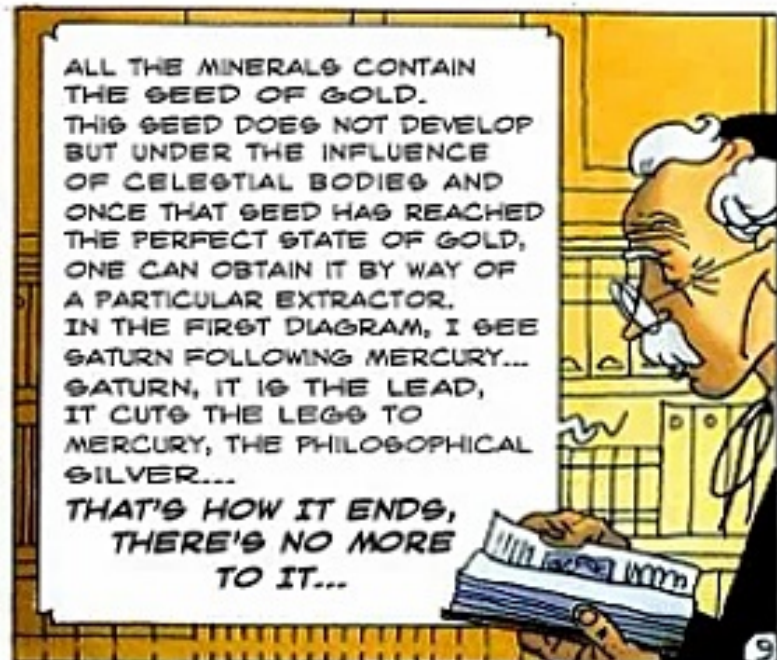


I ALREADY TOLD YOU...  
BUT CAN YOU GIVE ME  
ANY INFORMATION?



ALL THE MINERALS CONTAIN  
THE SEED OF GOLD.  
THIS SEED DOES NOT DEVELOP  
BUT UNDER THE INFLUENCE  
OF CELESTIAL BODIES AND  
ONCE THAT SEED HAS REACHED  
THE PERFECT STATE OF GOLD,  
ONE CAN OBTAIN IT BY WAY OF  
A PARTICULAR EXTRACTOR.  
IN THE FIRST DIAGRAM, I SEE  
SATURN FOLLOWING MERCURY...  
SATURN, IT IS THE LEAD,  
IT CUTS THE LEGS TO  
MERCURY, THE PHILOSOPHICAL  
SILVER...

THAT'S HOW IT ENDS,  
THERE'S NO MORE  
TO IT...



I'LL RECOPY THE FORMULA CLEARLY FOR YOU. LEARN IT BY HEART AND DESTROY IT STRAIGHT AWAY. YOU ARE WORTHY OF SEEING THE STONE.

**REMEMBER THIS WELL:** THE OBTAINED MATERIAL, FOLLOWED BY THE FORMULAS OF THE BOOK, WILL HAVE A STRONG SCENT. WHEN YOU HEAT IT IN THE OVEN, IT WILL BECOME GREY, THEN BLACK AS A CROW'S HEAD. THEN, LIKE A HALO AROUND THE FOREHEAD OF A SAINT, WILL BE BORN A WHITE CIRCLE AROUND THE DARK MASS, WHICH WILL BECOME CLEAR BY DEGREES AND ALL WHITE.



WHEN IT WILL BE THE SAME AS THE SNOW, YOU WILL POSSESS THE SMALL STONE, THE WHITE ELIXIR WHICH CHANGES MERCURY TO SILVER. TO OBTAIN THE RED STONE, THAT WHICH MAKES GOLD THE PROCESS IS THE SAME. REPLACE THE LITTLE STONE IN THE ATHANOR\* AND YOU WILL SEE IT BE MADE IRIDESCENT, TAKING THE NUANCES OF A RAINBOW, THEN TO BECOME THE SAME AS AN ORANGE. WHEN THE COLOR WILL BE CRIMSON, IT WILL BE FINISHED... **YOU WILL HAVE GOLD!...**



HERE, THESE ARE THE FORMULAS...  
**DESTROY THEM!**



**BANG**

AH!.. AH!..



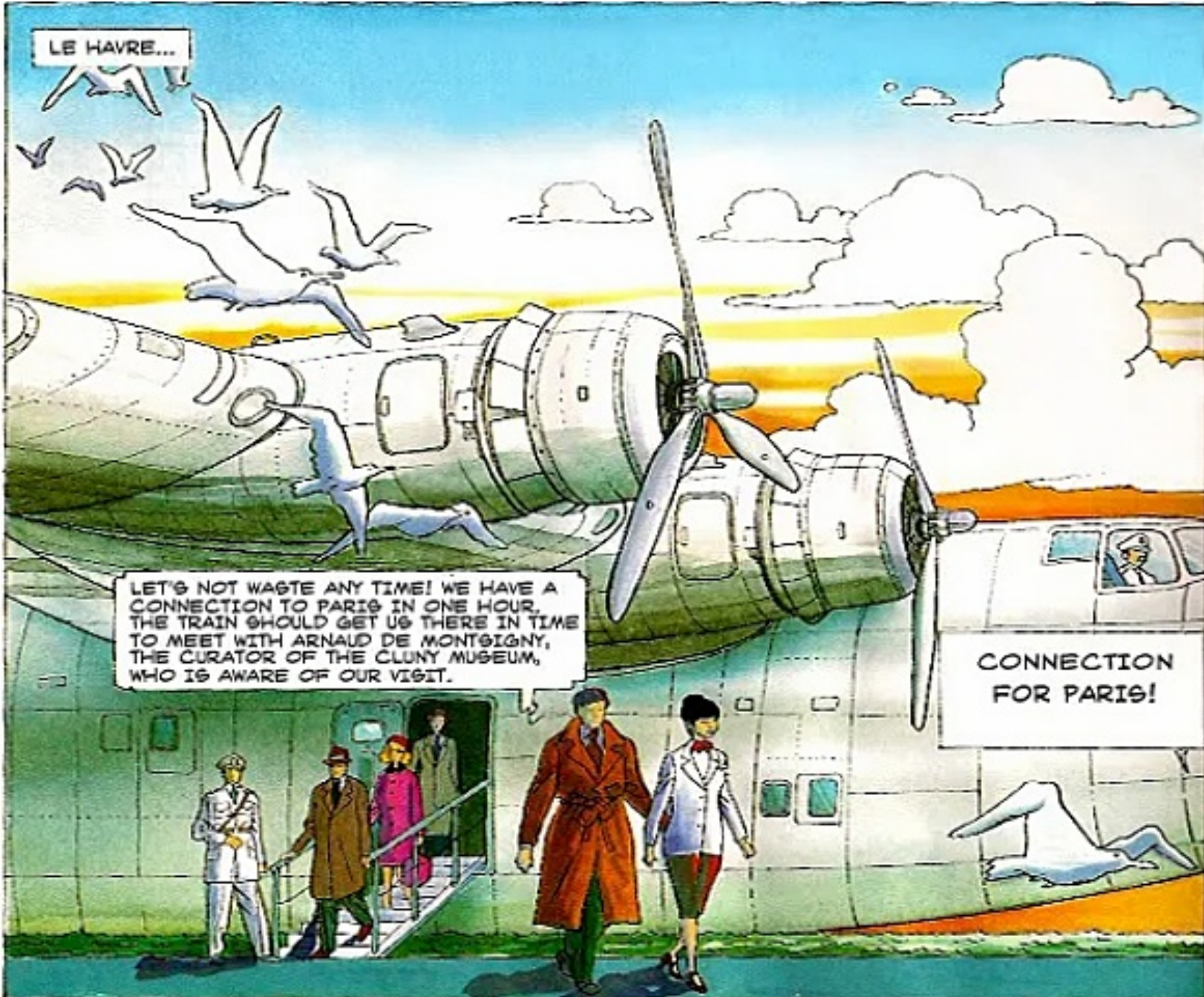
MARYA, LOOK AFTER MASTER CANCHES!



\*LARGE, SLOW-BURNING FURNACE



LE HAVRE...



PARIS.  
THE CLUNY MUSEUM.

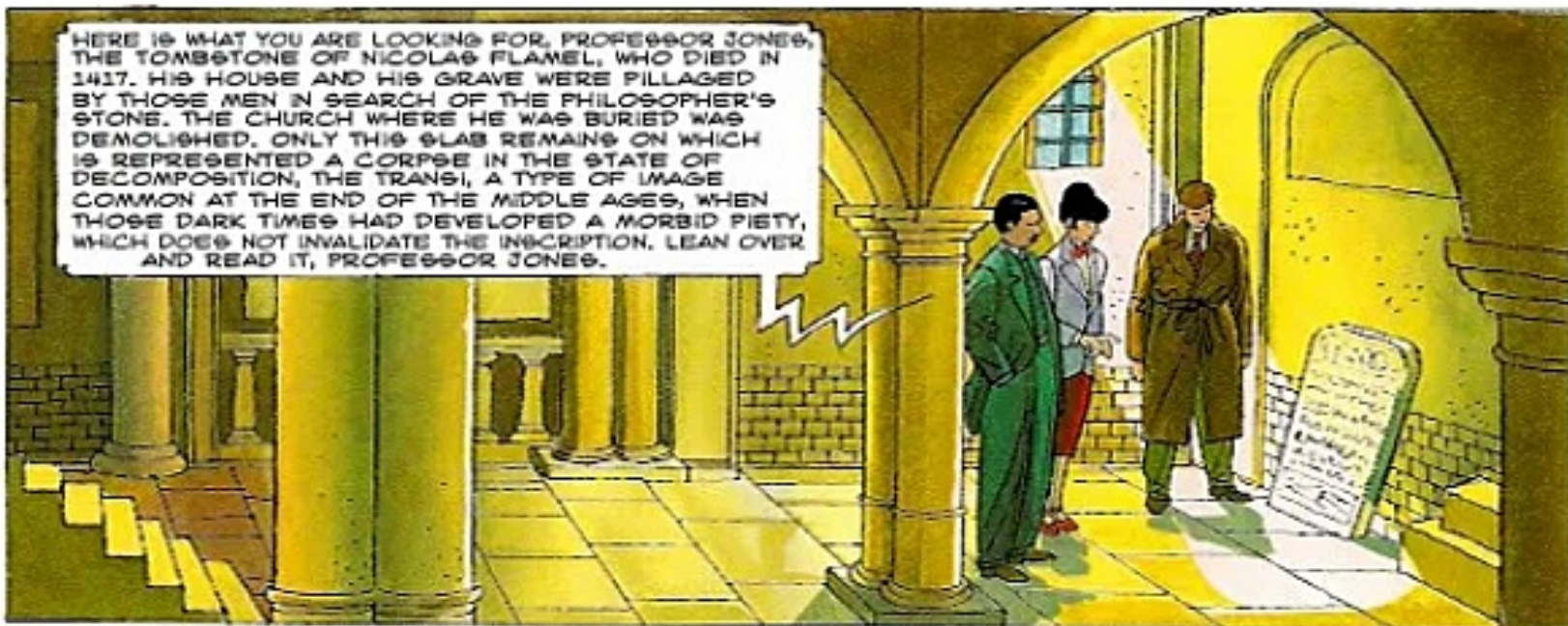
WE'RE RIGHT  
ON TIME.



VERY HONORED, PROFESSOR JONES.  
EVERYTHING IS READY. FOLLOW ME!



HERE IS WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR, PROFESSOR JONES. THE TOMBSTONE OF NICOLAS FLAMEL, WHO DIED IN 1417. HIS HOUSE AND HIS GRAVE WERE PILLAGED BY THOSE MEN IN SEARCH OF THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE. THE CHURCH WHERE HE WAS BURIED WAS DEMOLISHED. ONLY THIS SLAB REMAINS ON WHICH IS REPRESENTED A CORPSE IN THE STATE OF DECOMPOSITION, THE TRANSI, A TYPE OF IMAGE COMMON AT THE END OF THE MIDDLE AGES, WHEN THOSE DARK TIMES HAD DEVELOPED A MORBID PIETY, WHICH DOES NOT INVALIDATE THE INSCRIPTION. LEAN OVER AND READ IT, PROFESSOR JONES.



VERY INTERESTING, MARYA. LOOK, I'LL TRANSLATE THE EPITAPH: "From the earth I came and in the earth return. The soul returneth to thou JHU". HERE, IT SEEMS LIKE JESUS, "who forgives sins..."



THE PRAYER WHICH EXHALES DEATH: "Lord God, I put my hope in your mercy", ADDRESSED TO CHRIST FROM THE LAST JUDGMENT REPRESENTED AT THE TOP OF THE SLAB, BETWEEN THE SUN AND THE MOON HOLDING THE CRUCIFIXIAL GLOBE, ALONG WITH SAINT PETER AND SAINT PAUL. I DON'T SEE ANY SECRET MESSAGE. AH, HERE MAYBE, AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STONE. LOOK, THERE'S A SCROLL WHERE THE TEXT IS ALMOST ERASED!



WAIT, I'M GOING TO TRY AND DECIPHER IT!



IT'S WRITTEN IN LATIN. *Vulnerant omnes, ultima necat...*



THIS CAN BE TRANSLATED AS:  
*All wound, the last kills*.  
FORMERLY THIS LATIN INSCRIPTION  
WAS FOUND ON THE CLOCK FACES OF  
CHURCHES OR PUBLIC MONUMENTS.

YOU BELIEVE IT'S THE MESSAGE  
WHICH NICOLAS FLAMEL'S NEPHEW  
WOULD'VE LEFT TO POSTERITY?



WHO KNOWS? UNTIL THEN, NO ONE HAD CHECKED  
THIS SCROLL. BECAUSE ONLY MASTER CANCHES  
KNEW THIS DETAIL. MISTER CURATOR, WOULD THERE  
BE, IN THE CLUNY, A CLOCK OR SOMETHING SIMILAR?

NO, BUT ON REFLECTION,  
I BELIEVE THAT WHEN THIS  
TOMBSTONE WAS TRANSFERRED  
TO THE CLUNY, A CHEST WAS  
PART OF THE JOURNEY...

CAN IT  
BE SEEN?



LOOK, ON THE SIDE, THE SAME INSCRIPTION IS THERE!  
WATCH OUT, THE CHEST HIDES A TRAP FOR HE WHO OPENS IT.  
IT'S A PROFANE OBJECT FROM THE MUSSELMAN WORLD AND  
COMPLETED TO CHANGE THE DESTINATION, THERE'S NO VISIBLE OPENING!



I DON'T SEE ANY SYSTEM...THE CHEST SEEMS TO BE MADE FROM ONLY ONE PIECE AND THE FOUR SIDES ARE WOOD BUILT, COVERED IN SILVER GILT. THE SOLUTION IS IN THE INSCRIPTION: "All wound, the last kills". INCOMPREHENSIBLE!



LOOK AT THE COLOR OF THE OPAL, IT'S CHANGING WITH CONTACT FROM THE GUN!



BINGO! IT'S MODELED ON A SUNDIAL...GET BACK, YOU NEVER KNOW...LOOK, THE DOME IS GLOWING RED.



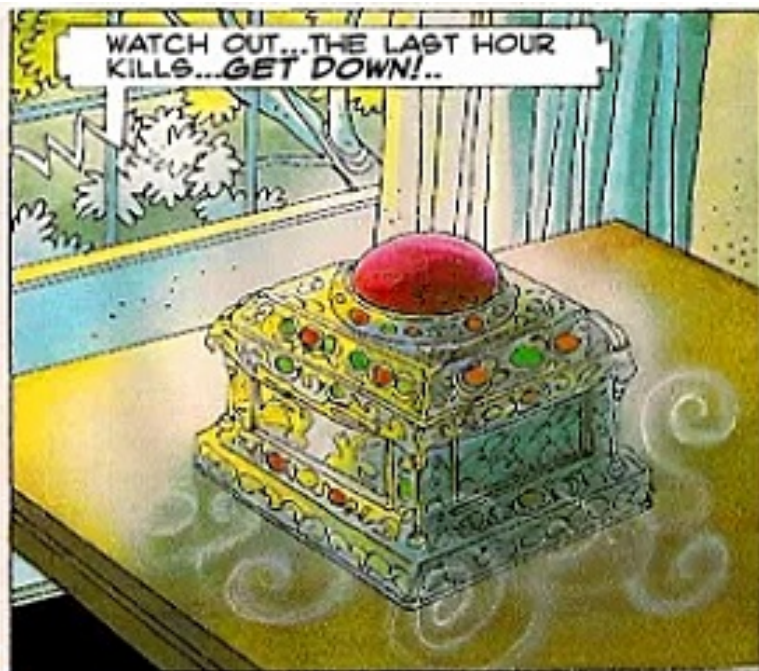
LET'S GET OUT FOR THIS PART...IT WAS SURELY FIXED TO OPEN AT A PRECISE MOMENT, ACCORDING TO THE SUN'S POSITION...THIS CLOUD MUST BE POISONED! THE CHEST SURELY HAS SOME OTHER SURPRISES IN STORE!



THE SUN SHOULD BE GOING DOWN  
IN A FEW MINUTES.



WATCH OUT...THE LAST HOUR  
KILLS...GET DOWN!...



THE  
PHILOSOPHER'S  
STONE?

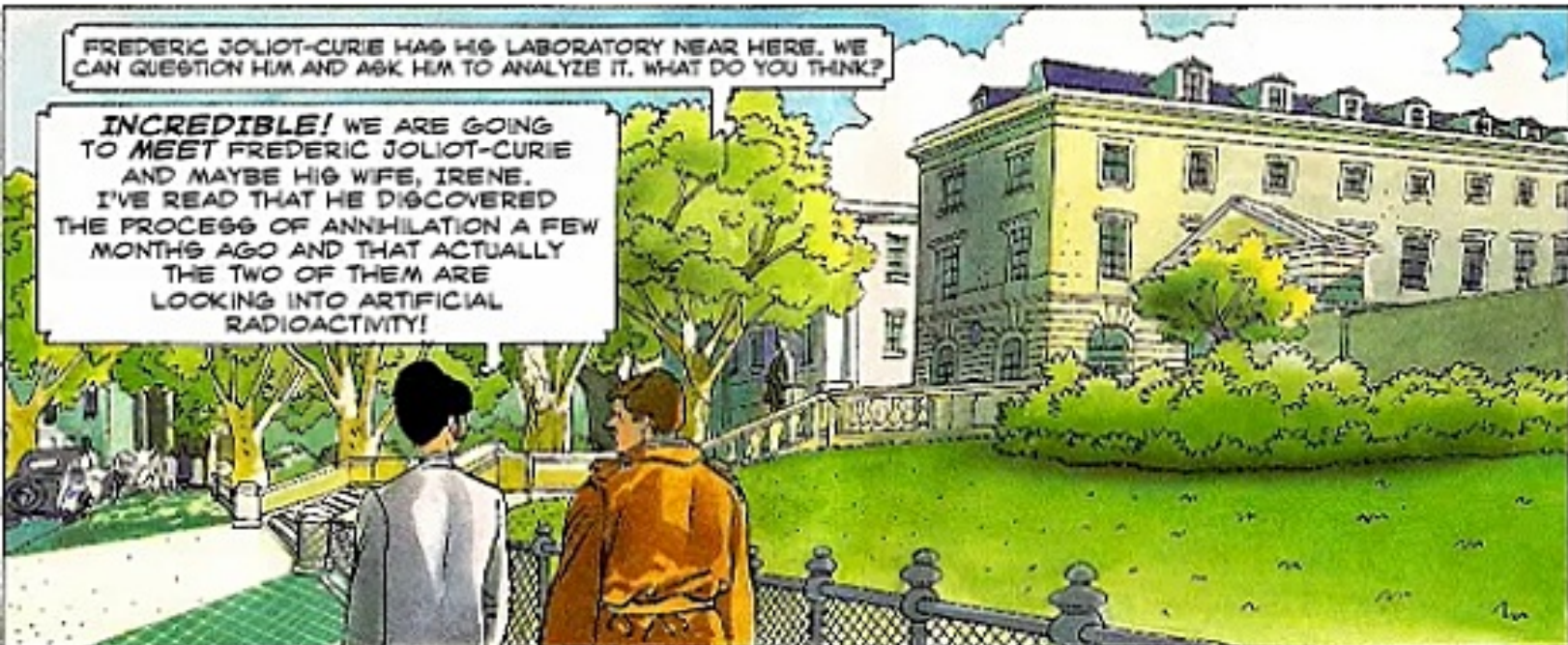


INCREDIBLE...WE HAVE IN FRONT OF US THE SECRET OF  
NICOLAS FLAVEL...MR. CURATOR, THIS BELONGS TO YOU,  
ALLOW ME TO TAKE A FEW OUNCES OF THE POWDER TO GET  
IT ANALYZED BY JOLIOT-CURIE, SINCE THE LAB IS NEARBY...

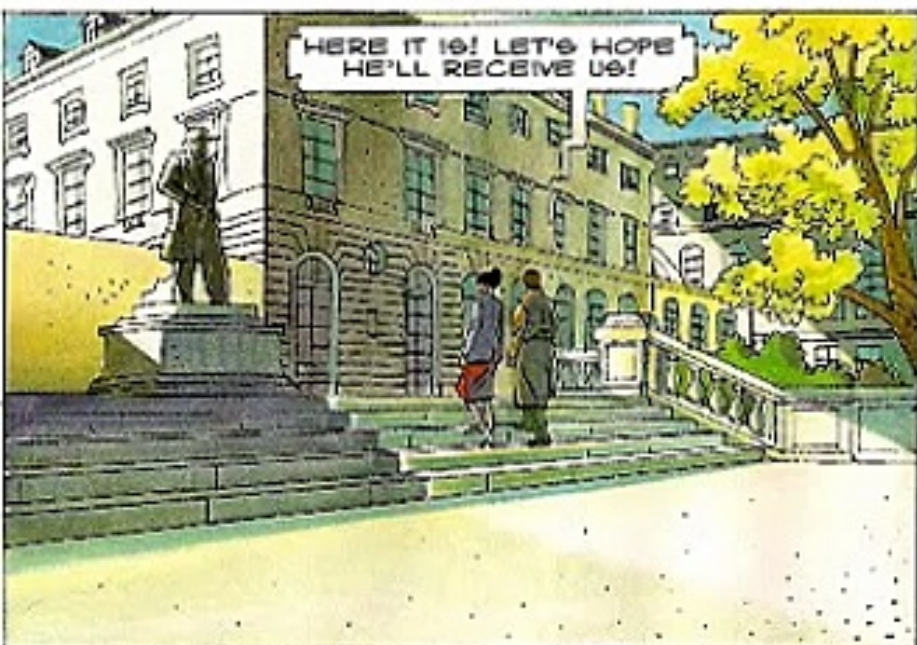


FREDERIC JOLIOT-CURIE HAS HIS LABORATORY NEAR HERE. WE CAN QUESTION HIM AND ASK HIM TO ANALYZE IT. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

**INCREDIBLE!** WE ARE GOING TO MEET FREDERIC JOLIOT-CURIE AND MAYBE HIS WIFE, IRENE. I'VE READ THAT HE DISCOVERED THE PROCESS OF ANNIHILATION A FEW MONTHS AGO AND THAT ACTUALLY THE TWO OF THEM ARE LOOKING INTO ARTIFICIAL RADIOACTIVITY!



HERE IT IS! LET'S HOPE HE'LL RECEIVE US!



WE WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH THE HONORABLE PROFESSOR JOLIOT-CURIE. I'M PROFESSOR JONES.



PROFESSOR JONES. WHAT A JOY TO SEE YOU AGAIN. WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN PARIS?



A VERY CURIOUS STORY WHICH I WISH TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT...

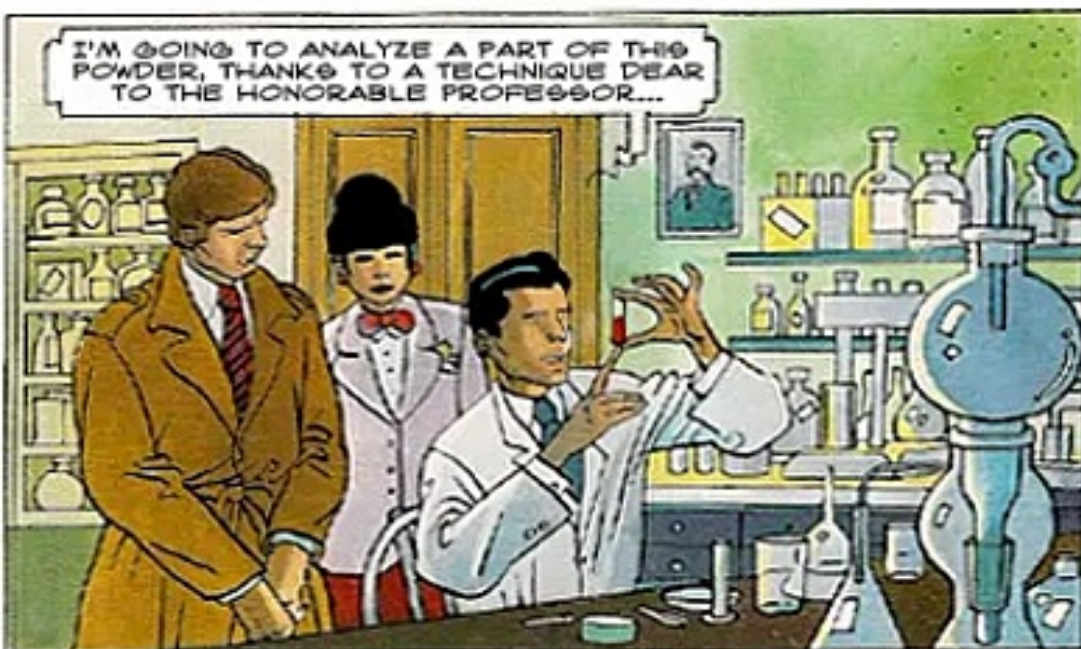


A LITTLE  
WHILE  
LATER...

MY DEAR JONES, WHAT YOU'VE JUST TOLD ME IS FASCINATING. UNFORTUNATELY, I'VE ONLY A BIT OF TIME TO GRANT YOU BUT MY ASSISTANT IS GOING TO LOOK INTO YOUR PROBLEM AND ATTEMPT TO GIVE YOU THE COMPOSITION OF THIS POWDER WHICH HAS COME TO US FROM SO LONG AGO. I WAS VERY HAPPY TO SEE YOU AGAIN...SEE YOU SOON, MY FRIEND...



I'M GOING TO ANALYZE A PART OF THIS POWDER, THANKS TO A TECHNIQUE DEAR TO THE HONORABLE PROFESSOR...



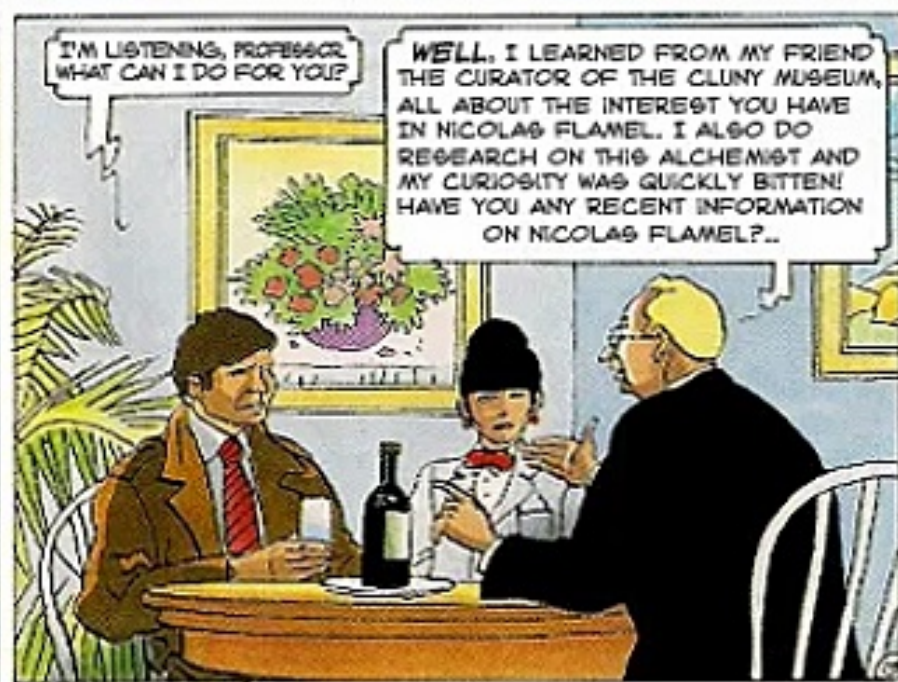
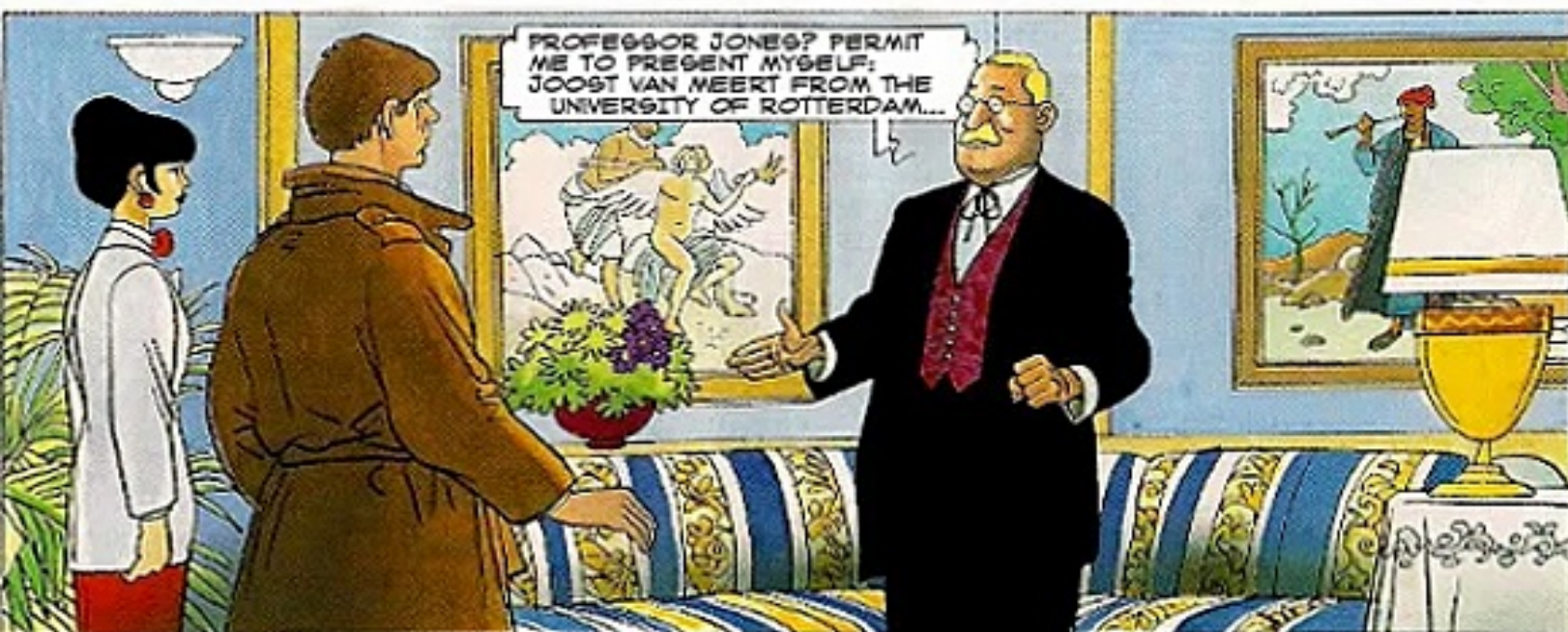
THE REACTION HAS  
STARTED!



GO?

STRANGE. HERE'S THE DECOMPOSITION FOR THE POWDER WHICH YOU ENTRUSTED ME TO ANALYZE. FIRST OF ALL, WE CAN FIND MERCURY, NEXT SULFUR, LEAD AND PEWTER. THAT'S ALL! THERE'S NOTHING EXTRAORDINARY! I'M SORRY!





NO! NOTHING EXTRAORDINARY I ACCOMPANIED MARYA SMIRNOVA WHO IS DOING A REPORT ON THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE, THAT'S ALL!



OF COURSE I HEARD IT SAID THAT THE GRIMOIRE OF FLAMEL WAS FOUND IN THE UNITED STATES BY A CERTAIN PROFESSOR JACOBS, WHO WAS FOUND DEAD A FEW DAYS AGO IN AURILCTOWN, A SMALL TOWN IN ARKANSAS... YOU HADN'T HEARD THE WORD?



TO TELL THE TRUTH, NO... I'M NOT AWARE OF THE CASE AND I'M SORRY, PROFESSOR VAN MEERT, THAT I CAN'T TELL YOU ANYTHING MORE. AND YOU, MARYA, WERE YOU PRIVY TO THE FINDING OF THIS GRIMOIRE?

ABSOLUTELY NOT!



WELL! SORRY TO HAVE BOTHERED YOU!



SO, IT'S THIS JACOBS WHO SENT ME THE GRIMOIRE? HE DIED, BUT BEFORE GOING BACK TO THE U.S., I'M GOING TO TELEPHONE THE CLINY MUSEUM CURATOR!



YES, THIS IS PROFESSOR JONES. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR ME TO SPEAK WITH THE CURATOR? WHAT? HE'S BEEN MISSING SINCE THIS AFTERNOON AND YOU DON'T HAVE ANY NEWS?



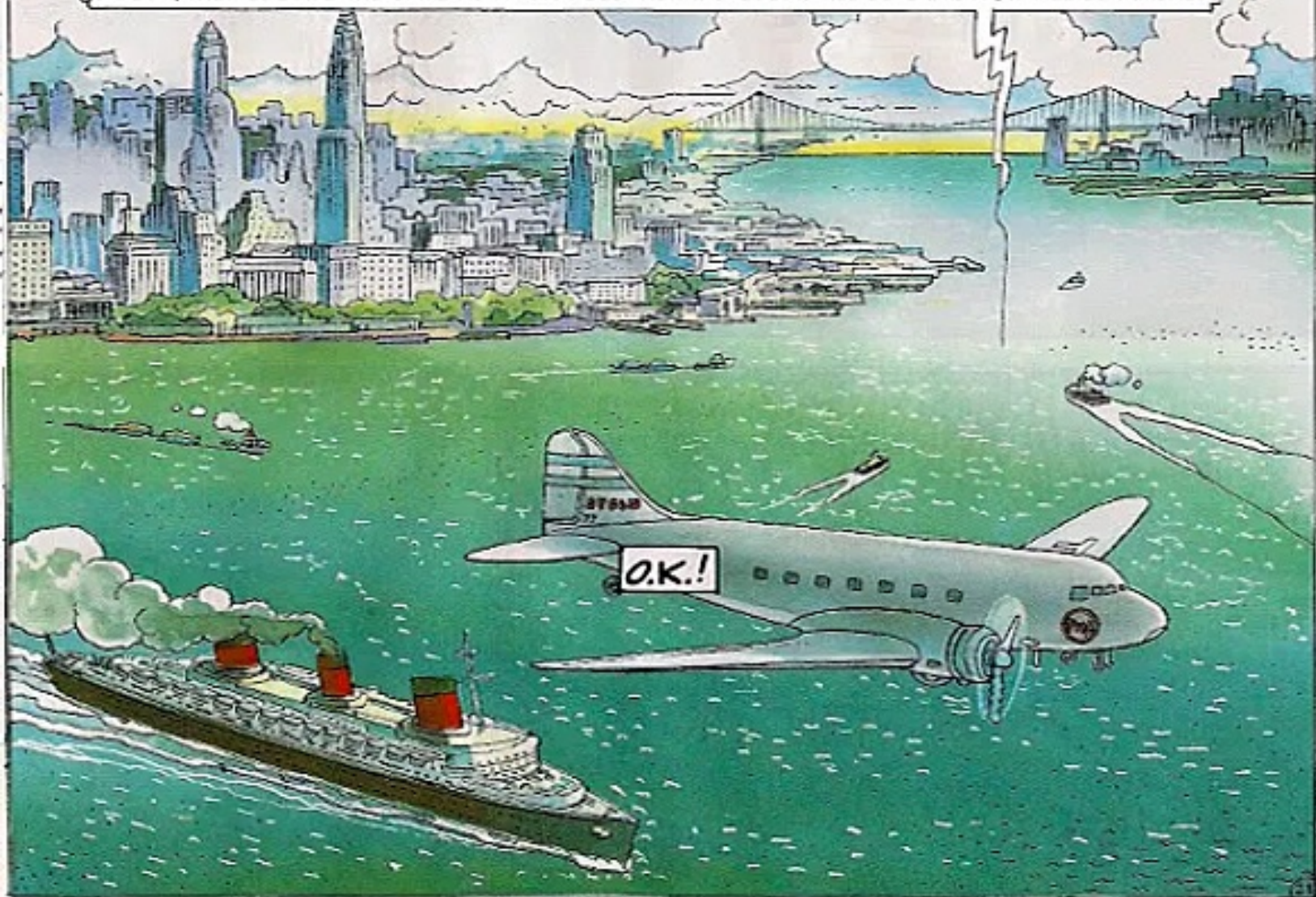
**CURIOUS!** THE MUSEUM CURATOR DISAPPEARED!  
WE NEED TO HAVE A FRESH LOOK INTO THE FORMULA. LET'S  
GET BACK TO THE STATES. THERE'S A T.W.A. FLIGHT, TONIGHT!



LISTEN CAREFULLY TO THE  
TERMS OF THE FORMULA, MARYA,  
AND GIVE ME YOUR OPINION.



FLAMEL'S FORMULA SAYS: "YOU KNOW ALL AND YOU ARE WORTHY OF SEEING THE RED STONE. THE MATERIAL OBTAINED FOLLOWING THE FORMULAS FROM THE BOOK WILL HAVE A STRONG ODOR. WHEN YOU HEAT IT IN THE KILN, IT WILL BECOME GRAY, THEN BLACK, THE COLOR OF A CROW'S HEAD, THEN LIKE A HALO AROUND THE FOREHEAD OF A SAINT, WILL BE BORN A WHITE CIRCLE AROUND THE DARK MASS...WHICH WILL BECOME CLEAR...CLEAR BY DEGREES AND ALL WHITE. WHEN IT WILL BE THE SAME AS THE SNOW, YOU WILL POSSESS THE SMALL STONE, **THE WHITE ELIXIR**, WHICH CHANGES MERCURY TO SILVER. TO OBTAIN THE RED STONE, THAT WHICH MAKES GOLD, YOU KNOW THAT WHICH IS SUITABLE TO FINISH...WHEN THE SMALL STONE WILL BE REPLACED IN THE ATHANOR, YOU WILL FIRST SEE IT BE MADE IRIDESCENT, TAKING THE NUANCES OF A RAINBOW, THEN BECOME THE SAME AS AN ORANGE. WHEN THE COLOR WILL BE CRIMSON, IT WILL BE FINISHED!"





THE BIG MOMENT  
HAS ARRIVED!...



DO YOU SMELL THAT STRONG ODOR?  
SAME AS WHAT WAS DESCRIBED IN THE LOST  
BOOK! LOOK, THE PREPARATION IS TURNING  
GREY. WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK...



IT'S TURNING  
INTO THE  
CROW'S  
HEAD...

"...THEN LIKE A HALO AROUND THE  
FOREHEAD OF A SAINT, WILL BE BORN A WHITE  
CIRCLE AROUND THE DARK MASS, WHICH WILL  
BECOME CLEAR...CLEAR BY DEGREES..."



LOOK, THE MATERIAL IS TURNING  
COMPLETELY WHITE!

WE'VE FOUND THE WHITE ELIXIR, THE SMALL  
PHILOSOPHICAL STONE WHICH CHANGES  
METAL INTO PURE SILVER...WE'RE GETTING  
TO THE SECOND PHASE. WATCH OUT!  
I'M GOING TO TAKE OUT THE VESSEL!

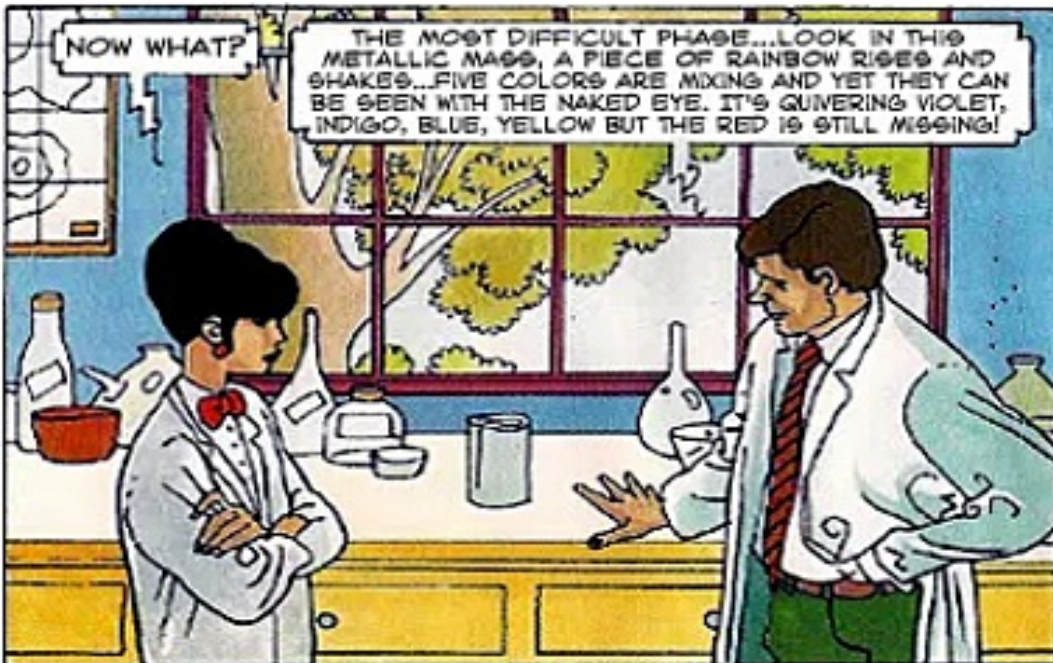


LOOK, IT'S  
PURE SILVER!  
FANTASTIC!



NOW WHAT?

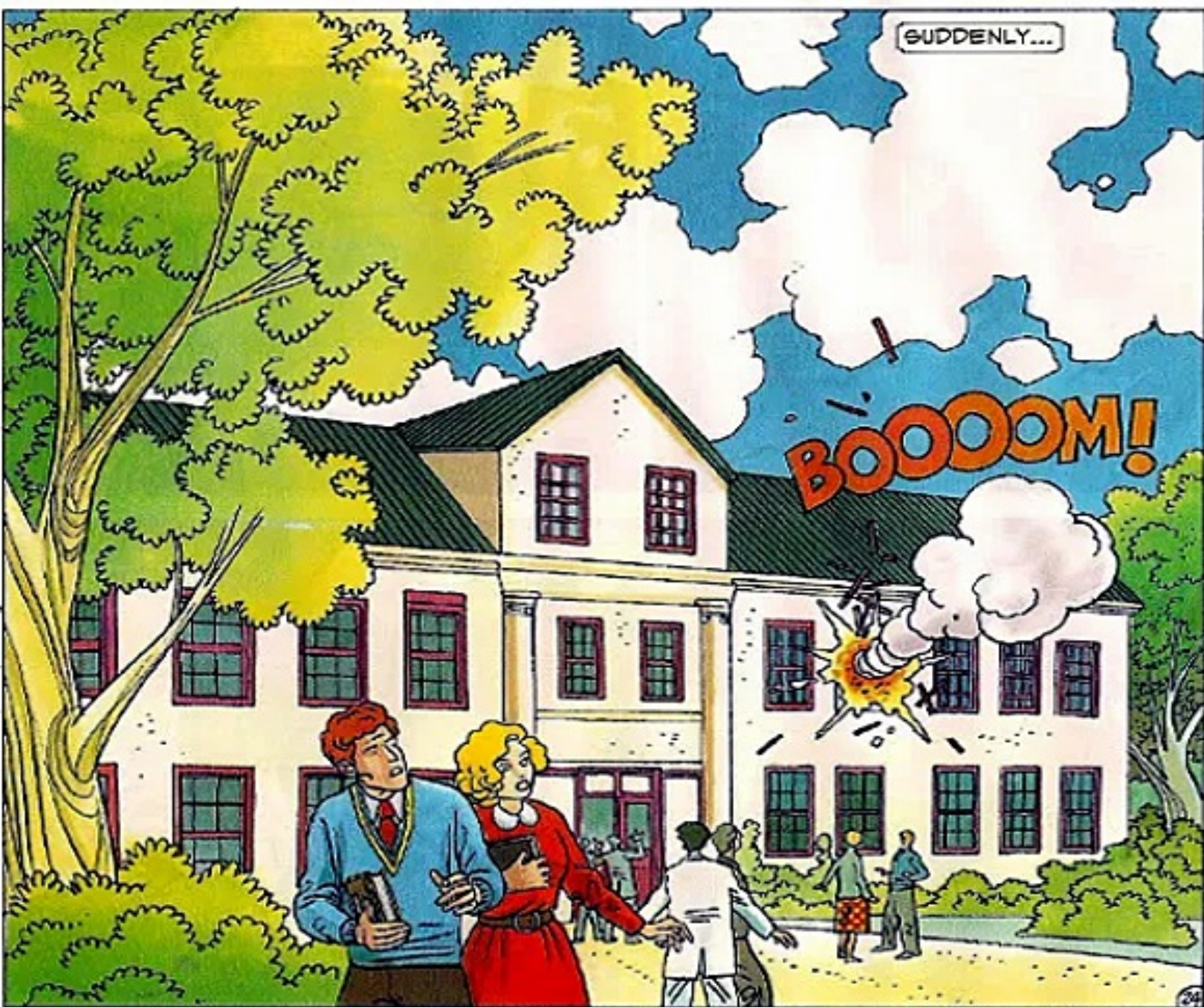
THE MOST DIFFICULT PHASE...LOOK IN THIS METALLIC MASS, A PIECE OF RAINBOW RISES AND SHAKES...FIVE COLORS ARE MIXING AND YET THEY CAN BE SEEN WITH THE NAKED EYE. IT'S QUIVERING VIOLET, INDIGO, BLUE, YELLOW BUT THE RED IS STILL MISSING!

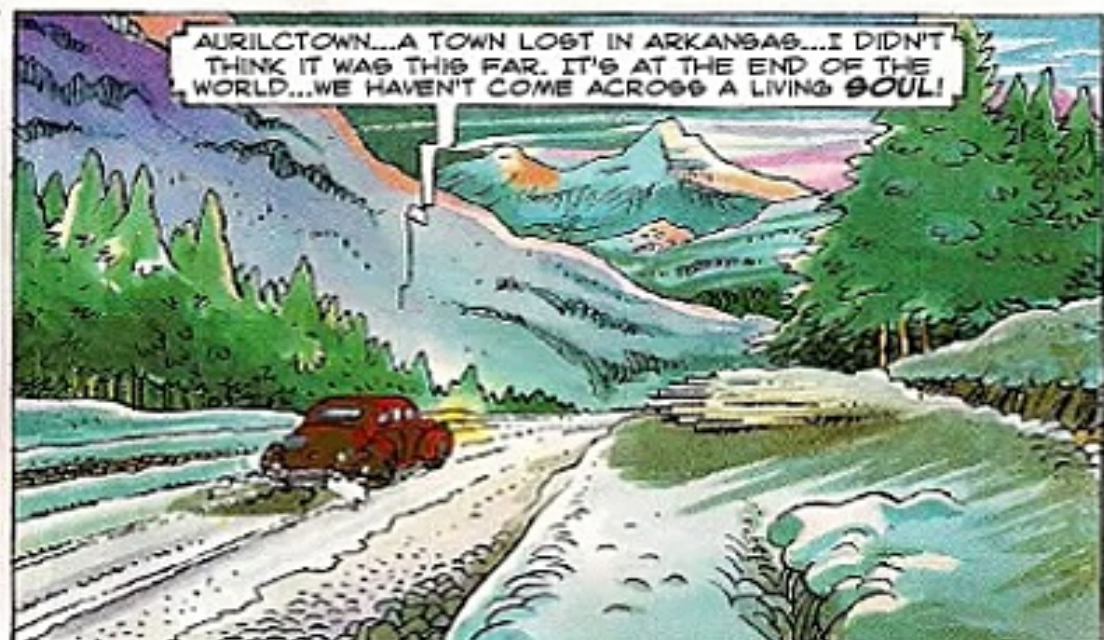


LAST STEP, MARYA...

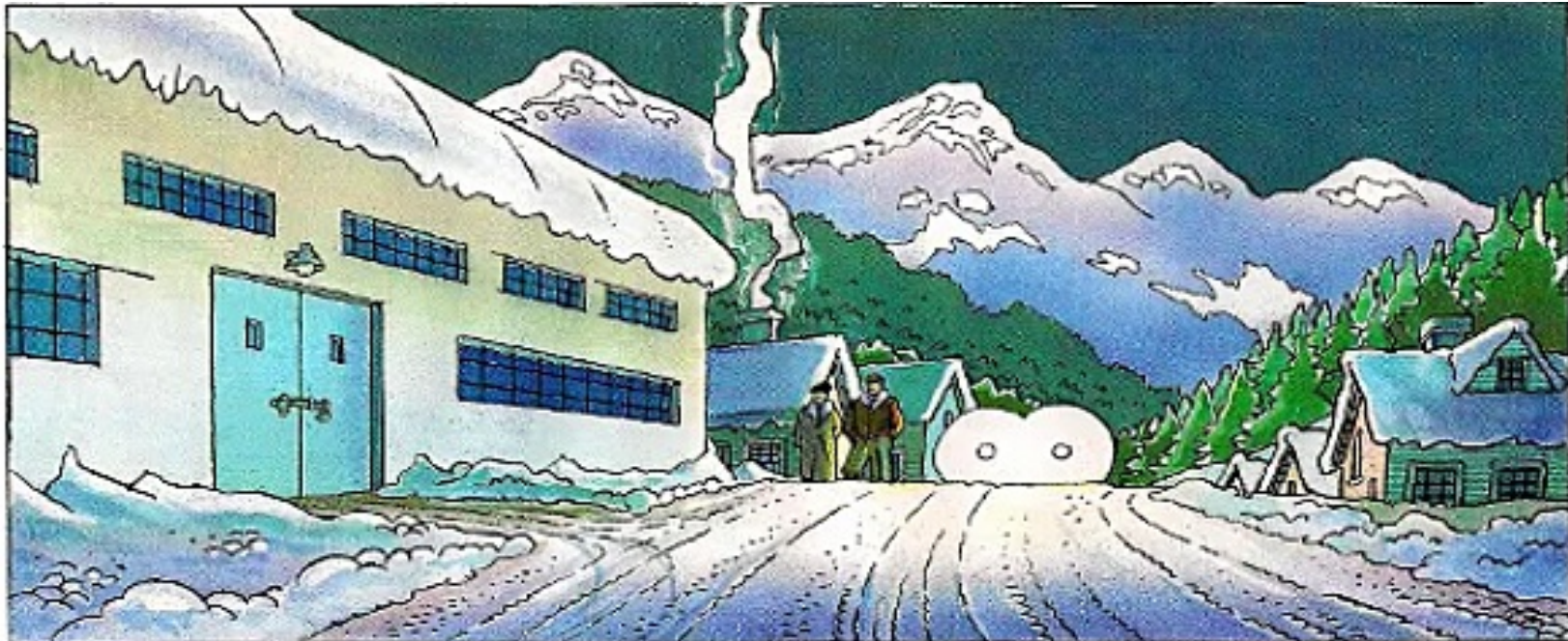


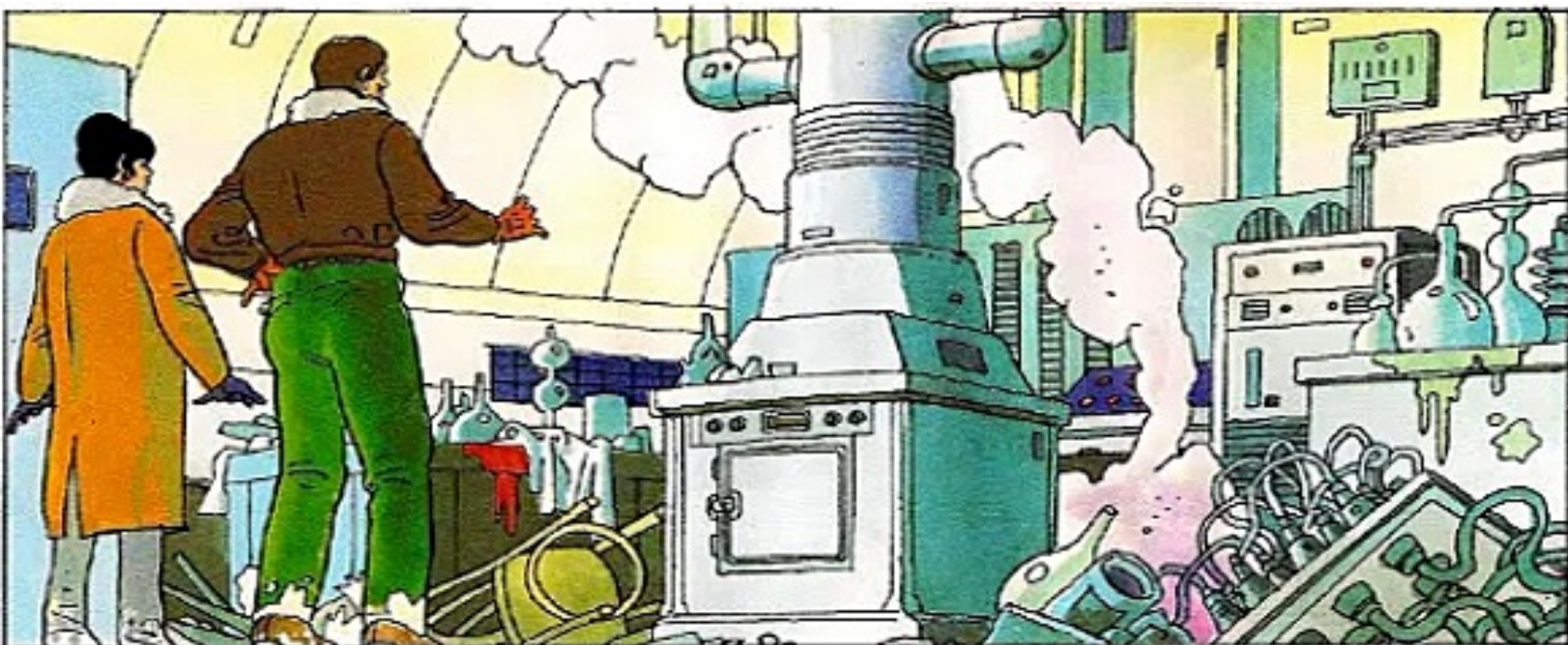
SUDDENLY...











EVERYTHING IS BROKEN...  
SOMEONE HAS ALREADY  
BEEN HERE!



EXACTLY! PROFESSOR JONES!



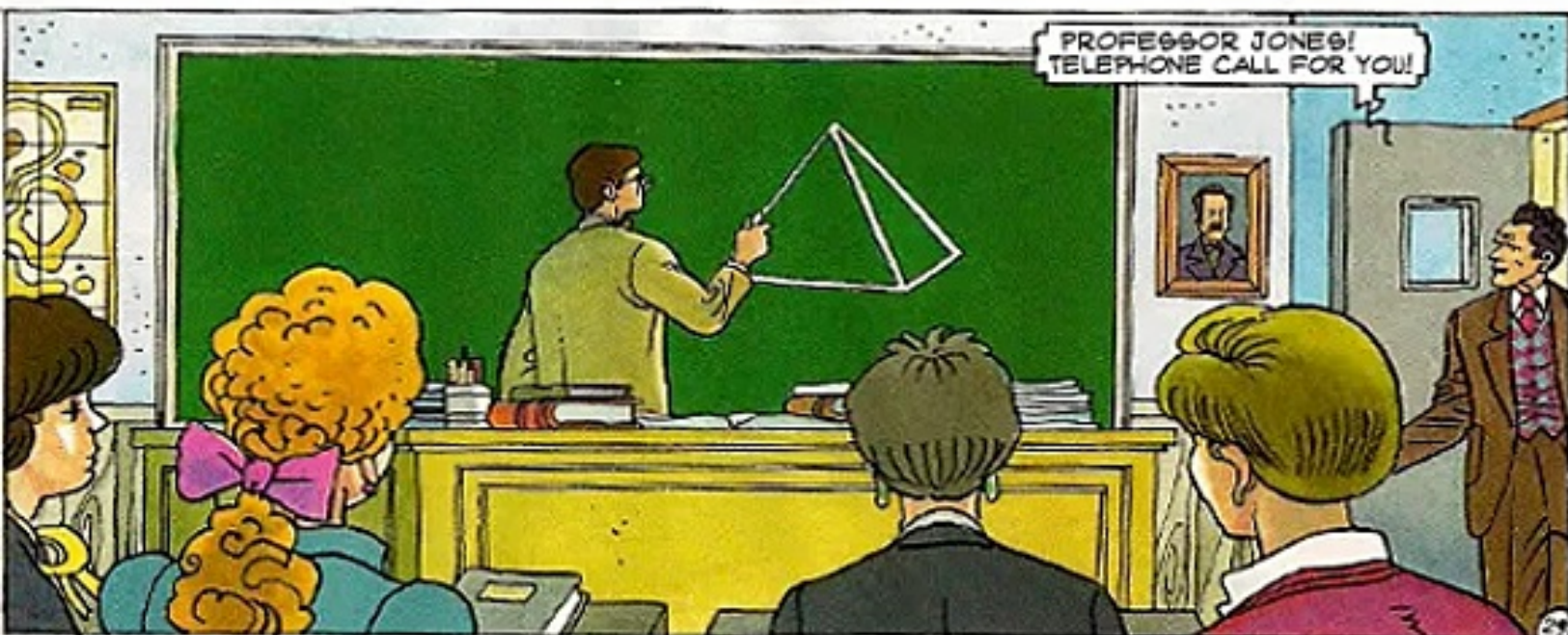
YOU, COME HERE!...



PROFESSOR JONES, GIVE ME THE  
GRIMOIRE OR I'LL SHOOT YOUR  
COMPANION! WE KNOW THAT JACOBS  
SENT IT TO YOU BY MAIL. WE NEED IT!

YOU'VE WON, I DO HAVE THE GRIMOIRE IN MY POSSESSION, BUT IT'S IN THE UNIVERSITY SAFE!

AH, YOU'RE BECOMING REASONABLE PROFESSOR JONES! I LIKE HEARING YOU SAY THAT YOU'RE IN POSSESSION OF FLAMEL'S GRIMOIRE AND OF A CERTAIN POWDER THAT YOU FOUND AT CLUNY, IN FRANCE. THE CURATOR CONFESSED TO ME BEFORE DYING. HA...HA...I PROPOSE TO YOU A DEAL... YOU RETURN TO THE UNIVERSITY AND YOU AWAIT MY TELEPHONE CALL. US, WE'RE LEAVING IN THE COMPANY OF MARYA SMIRNOVA...SEE YOU SOON, PROFESSOR JONES!



JONES ON THE PHONE,  
I'M LISTENING!

VAN MEERT, HERE...WE'RE  
WAITING FOR YOU IN THREE  
DAYS, WITH THAT WHICH YOU  
KNOW, AT RED CROSS  
JUNCTION, IN THE BRYCE  
CANYON, AT 3 O'CLOCK PM  
VERY PRECISE...

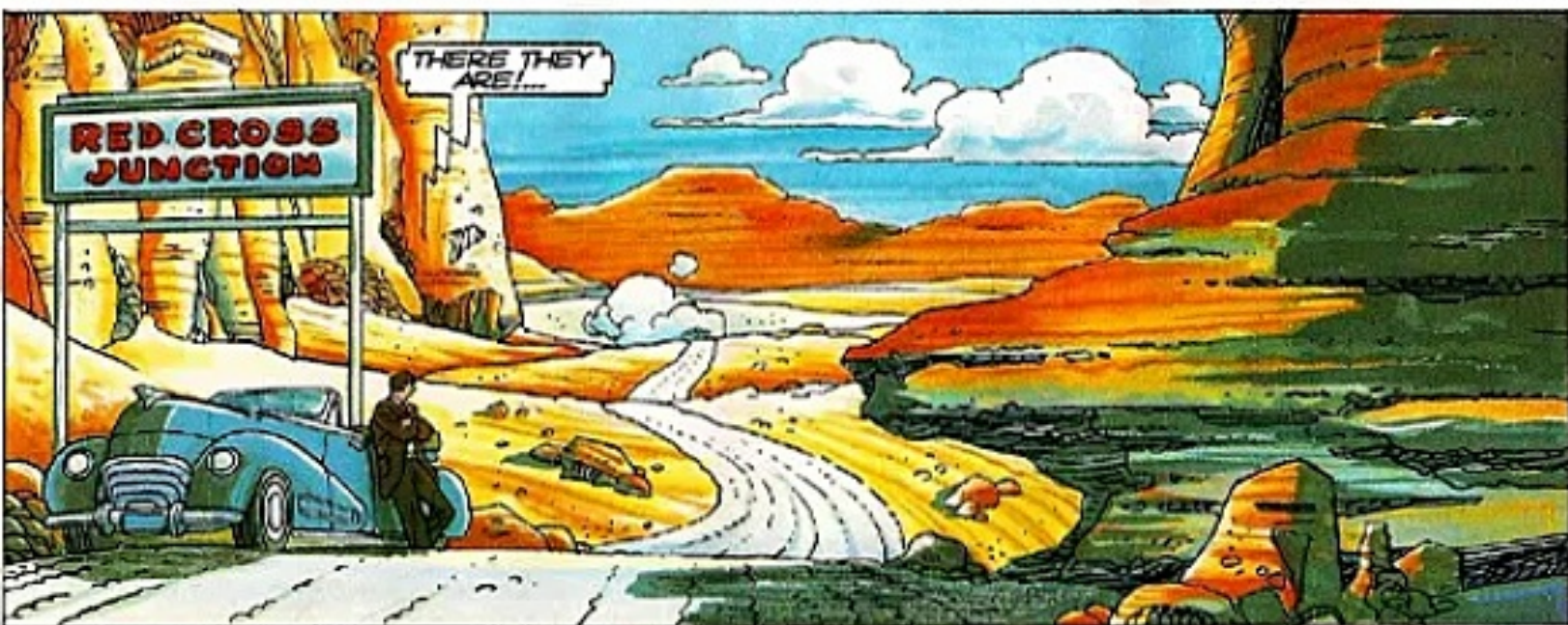


A FEW MILES LEFT TO GO AND I  
SHOULD ARRIVE AT THE RENDEZ-VOUS!

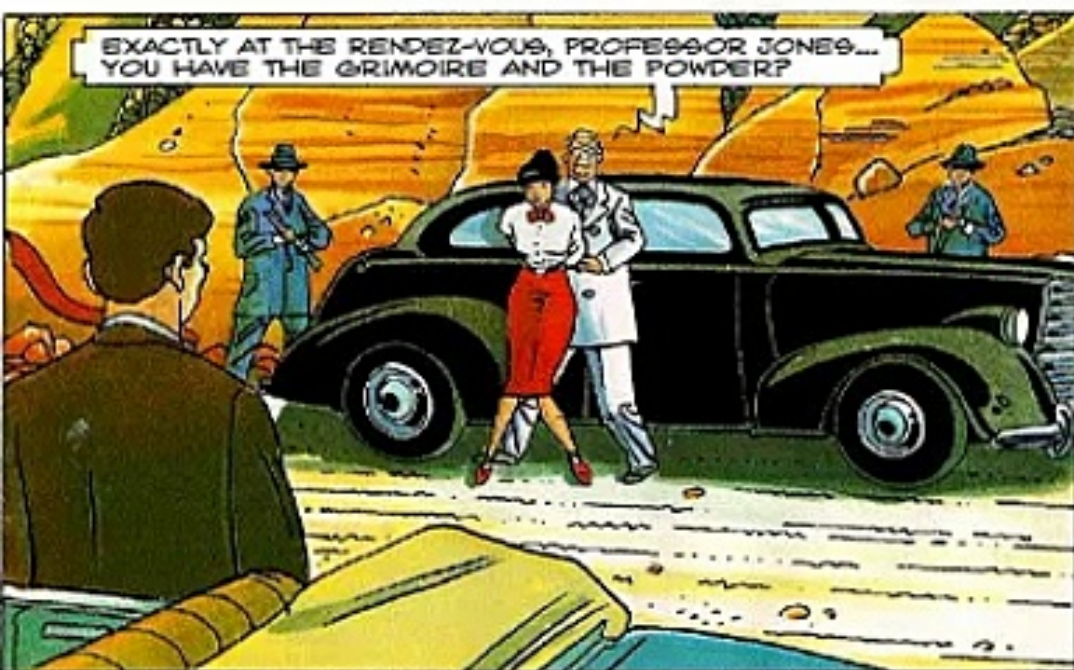


THERE THEY  
ARE!

RED CROSS  
JUNCTION



EXACTLY AT THE RENDEZ-VOUS, PROFESSOR JONES...  
YOU HAVE THE GRIMOIRE AND THE POWDER?



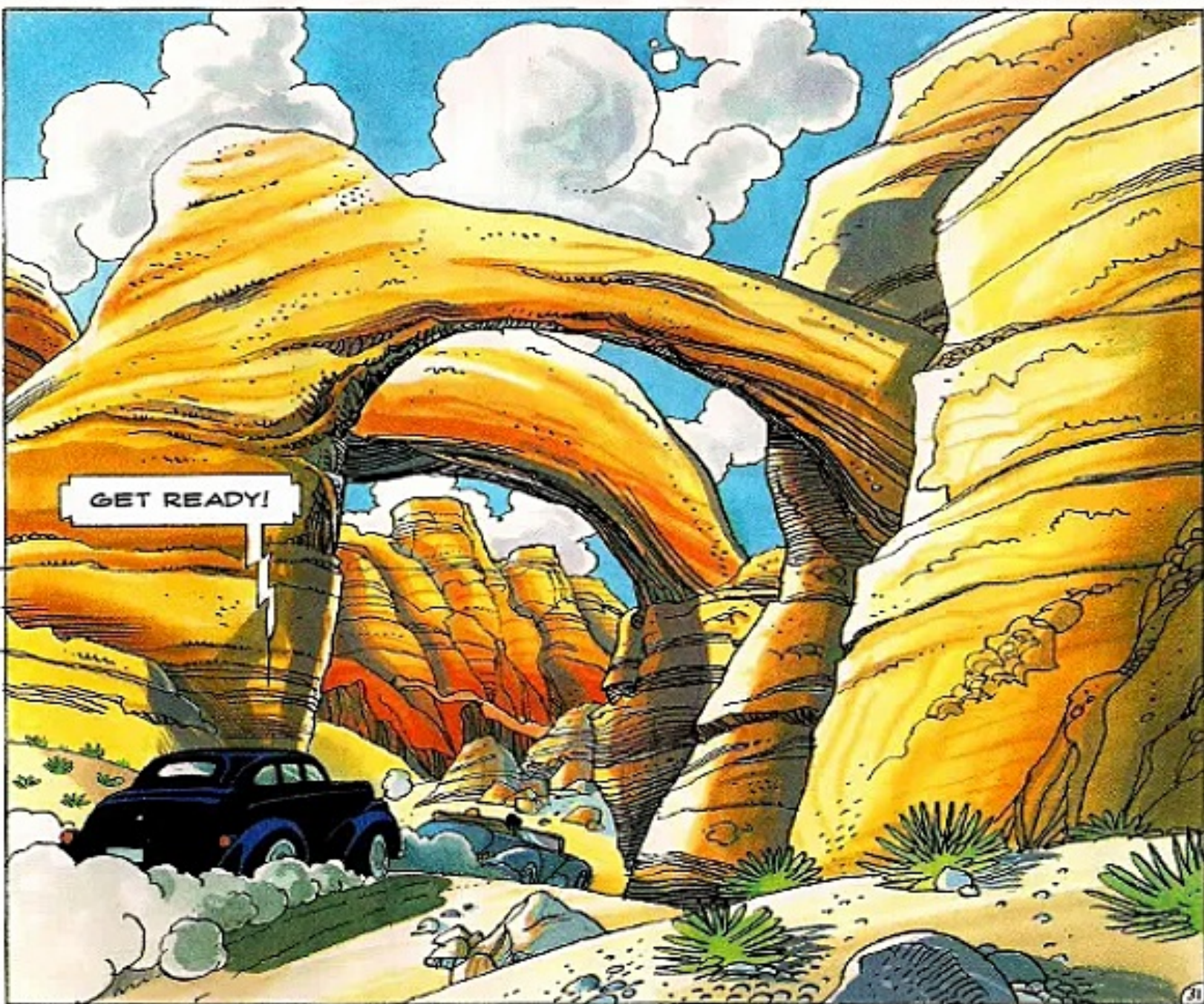
TAKE IT, VAN MEERT, IT'S  
YOURS! MARYA IS GOING  
TO BE RETURNED TO ME!



WAIT, JONES! YOU, GRAB HIM! GORRY,  
PROFESSOR, BUT I STILL NEED YOU!  
KURT, YOU'LL DRIVE THE CAR!

AND SO, THE AD-  
VENTURE CONTUES!

IF WE WANT...  
THIS VAN MEERT HAS A  
CONTINUOUS FLOW OF IDEAS!





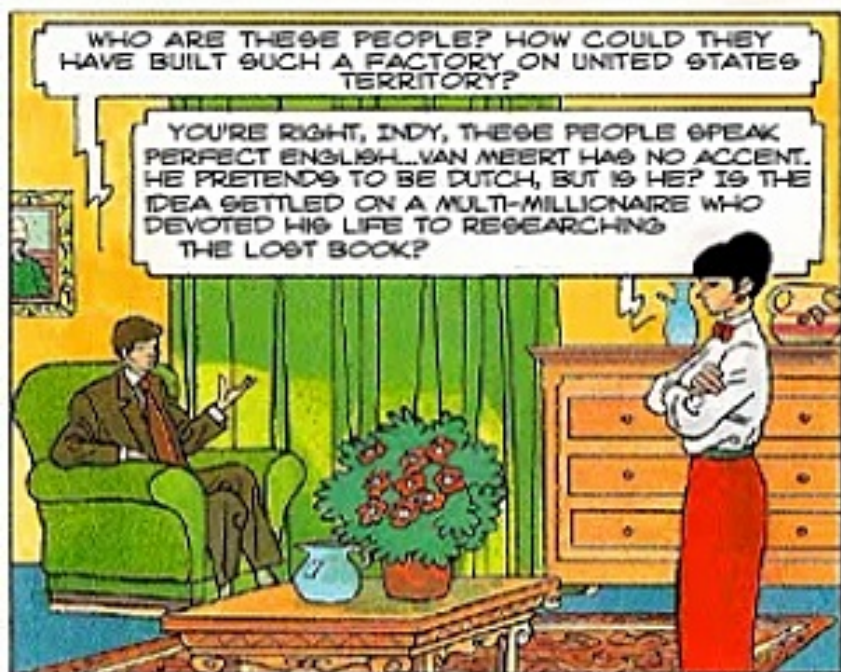
SORRY TO ANNOY YOU AT YOUR RENDEZ-VOUS PROFESSOR, BUT I'M GOING TO NEED YOU! FOR THE MOMENT, YOU WILL BE GUIDED TO YOUR APARTMENTS...

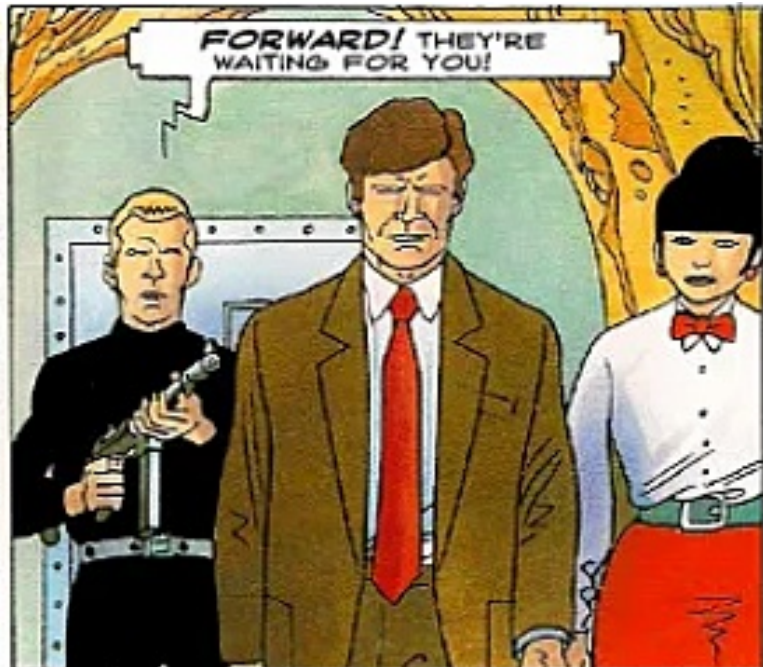
WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE? HOW COULD THEY HAVE BUILT SUCH A FACTORY ON UNITED STATES TERRITORY?

YOU'RE RIGHT, INDY, THESE PEOPLE SPEAK PERFECT ENGLISH...VAN MEERT HAS NO ACCENT. HE PRETENDS TO BE DUTCH, BUT IS HE? IS THE IDEA SETTLED ON A MULTI-MILLIONAIRE WHO DEVOTED HIS LIFE TO RESEARCHING THE LOST BOOK?

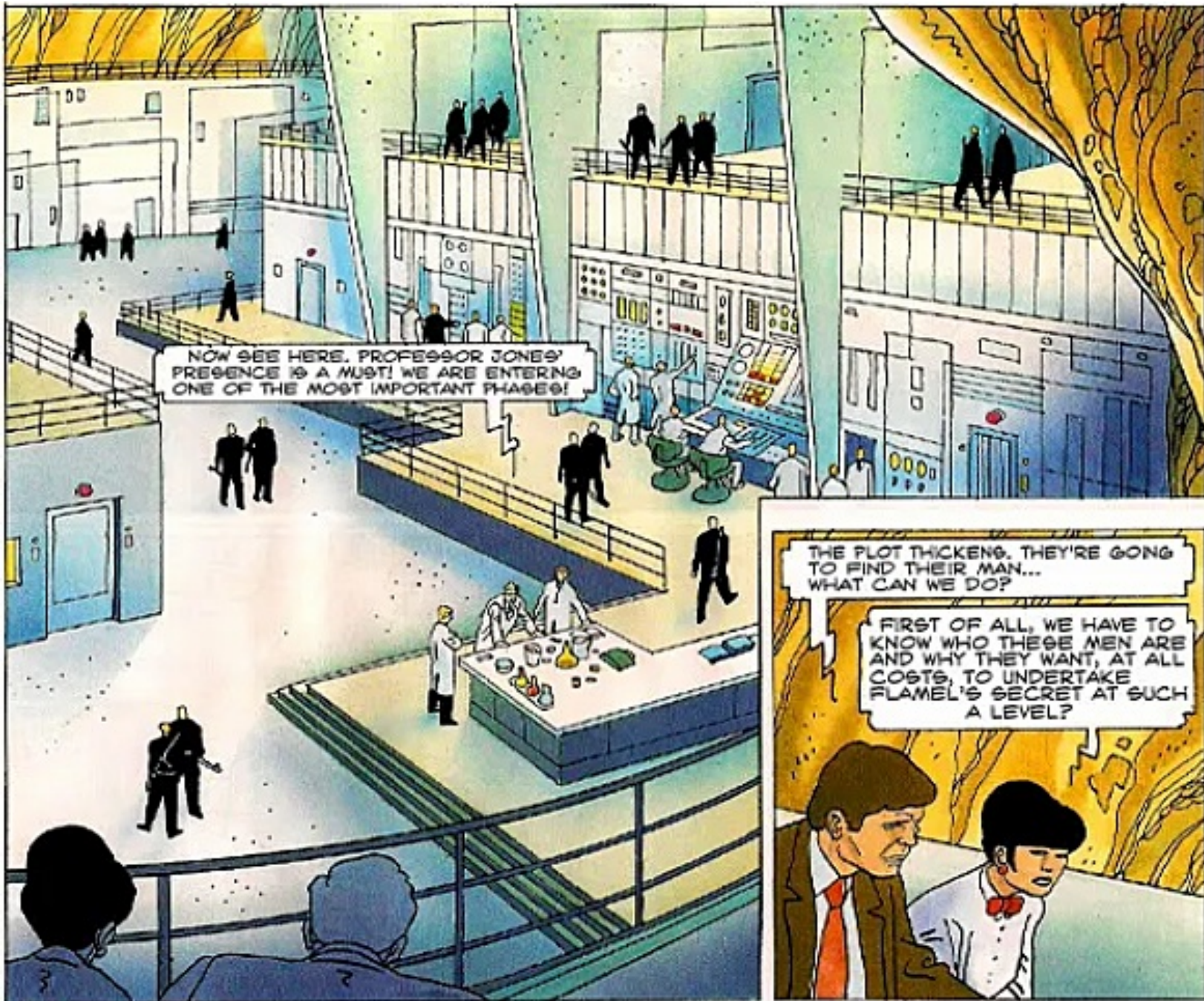
MAYBE? THIS MAN CERTAINLY HAS THE NATURE OF BEING A VERY POWERFUL AND INFLUENTIAL MAN...

PROFESSOR VAN MEERT IS ASKING FOR YOU, PROFESSOR JONES...FOLLOW ME!









THE PLOT THICKENS. THEY'RE GOING TO FIND THEIR MAN... WHAT CAN WE DO?

FIRST OF ALL, WE HAVE TO KNOW WHO THESE MEN ARE AND WHY THEY WANT, AT ALL COSTS, TO UNDERTAKE FLAMEL'S SECRET AT SUCH A LEVEL?



WHICH ONE, INDY?



WE SURRENDER!..





PROFESSOR JONES, IT'S USELESS  
TO SCHEME AGAINST ME! I KNOW  
THAT YOU SPOKE WITH MASTER  
CANCHES, THAT YOU MET WITH THE  
JOLIOT-CURIES IN PARIS AND THAT  
YOU ARE IN POSSESSION OF A  
CERTAIN REDDISH POWDER...  
ACH! WHAT A NICE ADVENTURE,  
PROFESSOR, YOU HAVEN'T BEEN LET  
OUT OF OUR SIGHT...WE NEED THIS  
FORMULA FOR OUR FUHRER!

WE NEED THIS GOLD FOR OUR BIG PROJECT! CONQUEST OF THE  
WORLD! WHAT DID MASTER CANCHES SAY TO YOU BEFORE HE DIED?

NOTHING...HE DIED  
IN MY ARMS! YOU  
ASSASSINATED HIM!...

I DON'T BELIEVE ANY OF THAT! TUFEL! YOU WOULDN'T  
HAVE GONE TO PARIS ONLY TO VISIT THE CLUNY MUSEUM!

SIMPLE SCIENTIFIC  
CURIOSITY!

I, TOO, AM A SCIENTIST. IT'S BECAUSE OF THIS THAT THE FUHRER CONFIDED THE MISSION TO ME KNOWING MY PASSION FOR ALCHEMY. FOR CENTURIES ALCHEMY HAS BEEN STUDIED. ALCHEMY WAS CULTIVATED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN GREECE AND IN EGYPT...THE SCHOOL OF ALEXANDRIA! IT WAS THERE THAT ITS FLAME WAS REIGNITED AFTER THE INVASION OF EGYPT BY THE ARABS. THEN IT WAS SPAIN... FROM THE IX<sup>TH</sup> TO THE XI<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY, WHEN THE ENTIRE WORLD WAS PLUNGED INTO THE DEEPEST BARBARISM, ONLY SPAIN CONSERVED THE PRECIOUS DEPOSIT OF SCIENCE! BUT, PROFESSOR JONES, YOU HAVE NICOLAS FLAMEL'S STONE AND...THIS, ABOVE ALL!...



J.H.U. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THESE THREE LETTERS?

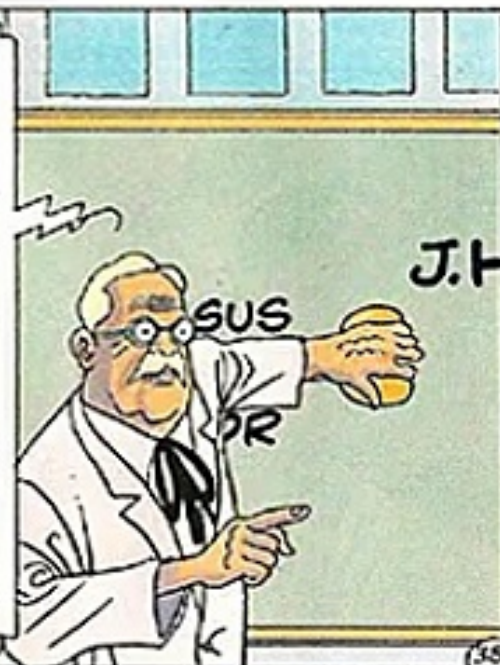


JESUS THE REDEEMER OF MEN...

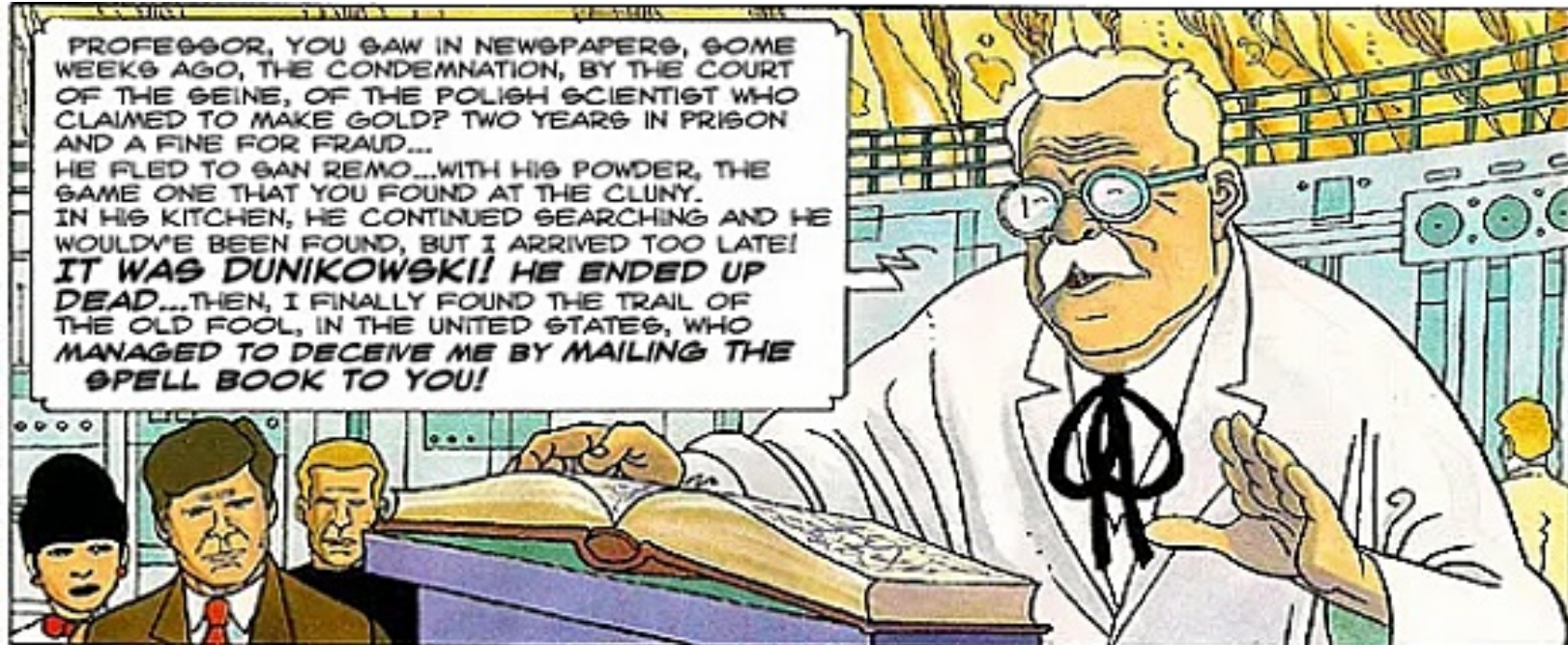


**NO**, THESE THREE LETTERS HAVE ANOTHER MEANING! FOR MONTHS I'VE QUESTIONED THE THREE LETTERS ENGRAVED AT THE FOOT OF THE TOMBSTONE EPITAPH WHICH WAS NICHOLAS FLAMEL'S...YOU'VE SEEN IT! THE ALCHEMIST WAS BURIED ON MARCH 22ND, 1418 IN THE CHAPEL OF SAINT-CLEMENT, IN SAINT-JACQUES-LA-BOUCHERIE, A PARISH IN WHICH HE SPENT HIS LIFE AND WHICH HE SHOWERED WITH PIOUS DONATIONS. HIS TOMB REMAINED THERE UNTIL 1797. THE CHURCH WAS DEMOLISHED AND THE INSCRIPTION WHICH CAN BE READ ON THE PLAQUE DISAPPEARED. A CURIOSITY-SEEKER FOUND THE PIECE AT A SPICE MERCHANT'S WHO USED IT TO CHOP HIS HERBS. THIS ANTIQUARIAN HAD KEPT IT WITH HIS ODDS & ENDS FOR A LONG TIME AND FINALLY GAVE IT TO THE CLUNY MUSEUM FOR A SMALL SUM. YOU ARE PRIVILEGED, PROFESSOR JONES, YOU SAW IT, YOU EXAMINED THE GRAIN OF THE STONE, ITS WORN FIGURES, ITS CHARACTERS HALF-ERASED AND THE BANNER WHICH READS: "FROM THE EARTH I COME AND TO THE EARTH RETURN. THE SOUL RETURNETH TO THOU J.H.U. WHO FORGIVES SINS" FOR MONTHS I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR WHAT THESE THREE LETTERS MEAN!

**I AM A SCIENTIST, TOO, PROFESSOR JONES...** BUT THAT DOESN'T PREVENT ME FROM THINKING OF MY COUNTRY, BY SEARCHING FOR THE SECRET OF THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE!



PROFESSOR, YOU SAW IN NEWSPAPERS, SOME WEEKS AGO, THE CONDEMNATION, BY THE COURT OF THE SEINE, OF THE POLISH SCIENTIST WHO CLAIMED TO MAKE GOLD? TWO YEARS IN PRISON AND A FINE FOR FRAUD... HE FLED TO SAN REMO...WITH HIS POWDER, THE SAME ONE THAT YOU FOUND AT THE CLUNY. IN HIS KITCHEN, HE CONTINUED SEARCHING AND HE WOULD'VE BEEN FOUND, BUT I ARRIVED TOO LATE! **IT WAS DUNIKOWSKI! HE ENDED UP DEAD...** THEN, I FINALLY FOUND THE TRAIL OF THE OLD FOOL, IN THE UNITED STATES, WHO **MANAGED TO DECEIVE ME BY MAILING THE SPELL BOOK TO YOU!**



PROFESSOR JONES, GIVE ME THAT POWDER!

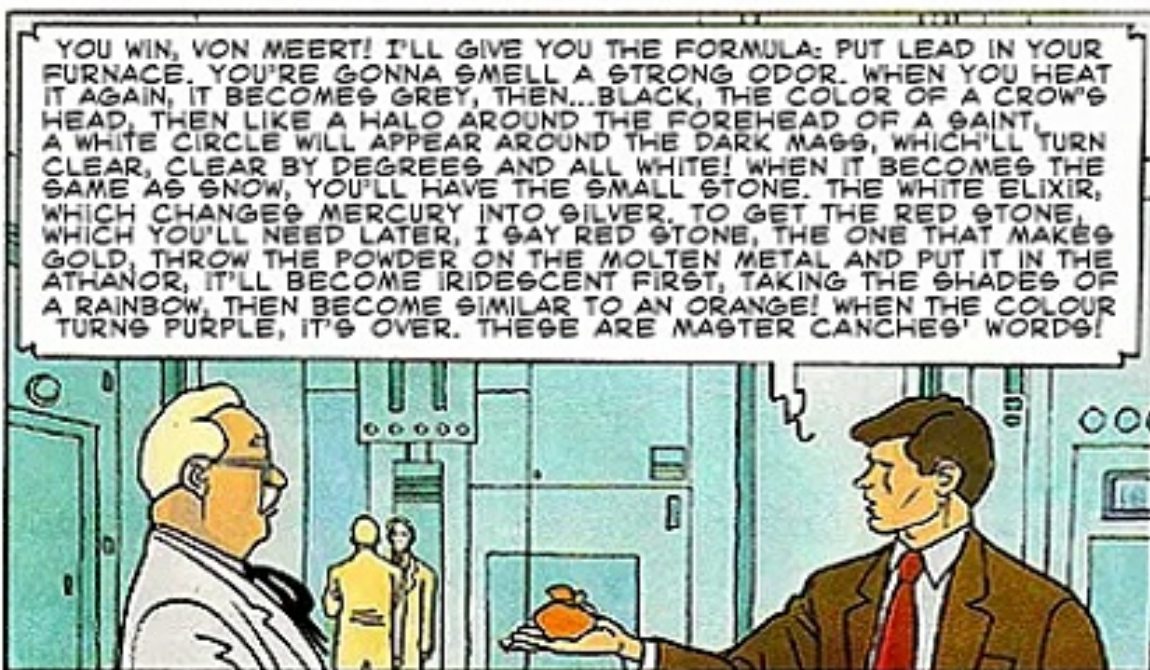
NO!..



PROFESSOR, YOU HAVE ONE MINUTE...IF NOT...



YOU WIN, VON MEERT! I'LL GIVE YOU THE FORMULA: PUT LEAD IN YOUR FURNACE. YOU'RE GONNA SMELL A STRONG ODOR. WHEN YOU HEAT IT AGAIN, IT BECOMES GREY, THEN...BLACK, THE COLOR OF A CROW'S HEAD, THEN LIKE A HALO AROUND THE FOREHEAD OF A SAINT, A WHITE CIRCLE WILL APPEAR AROUND THE DARK MASS, WHICH'LL TURN CLEAR, CLEAR BY DEGREES AND ALL WHITE! WHEN IT BECOMES THE SAME AS SNOW, YOU'LL HAVE THE SMALL STONE. THE WHITE ELIXIR, WHICH CHANGES MERCURY INTO SILVER. TO GET THE RED STONE, WHICH YOU'LL NEED LATER, I SAY RED STONE, THE ONE THAT MAKES GOLD, THROW THE POWDER ON THE MOLTEN METAL AND PUT IT IN THE ATHANOR, IT'LL BECOME IRIDESCENT FIRST, TAKING THE SHADES OF A RAINBOW, THEN BECOME SIMILAR TO AN ORANGE! WHEN THE COLOUR TURNS PURPLE, IT'S OVER. THESE ARE MASTER CANCHES' WORDS!



LIGHT THE OVENS! **SCHNELL!..**





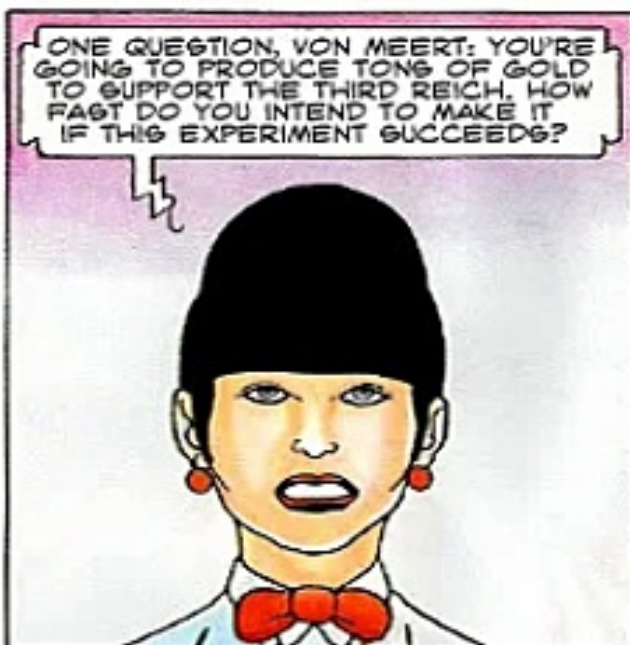
THE SMELL IS STRONG,  
PROFESSOR JONES!



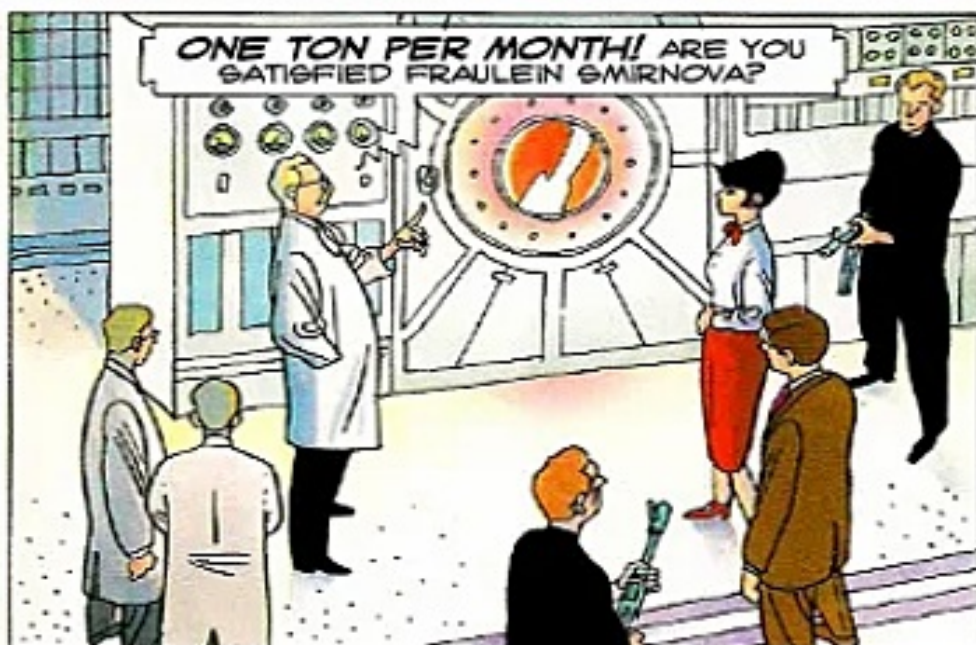
THE REAL PROCESS IS BEGINNING! WATCH  
THE FURNACE...THE METAL IS GONNA SLOWLY  
CHANGE COLOR. YOU NEED TO WAIT!



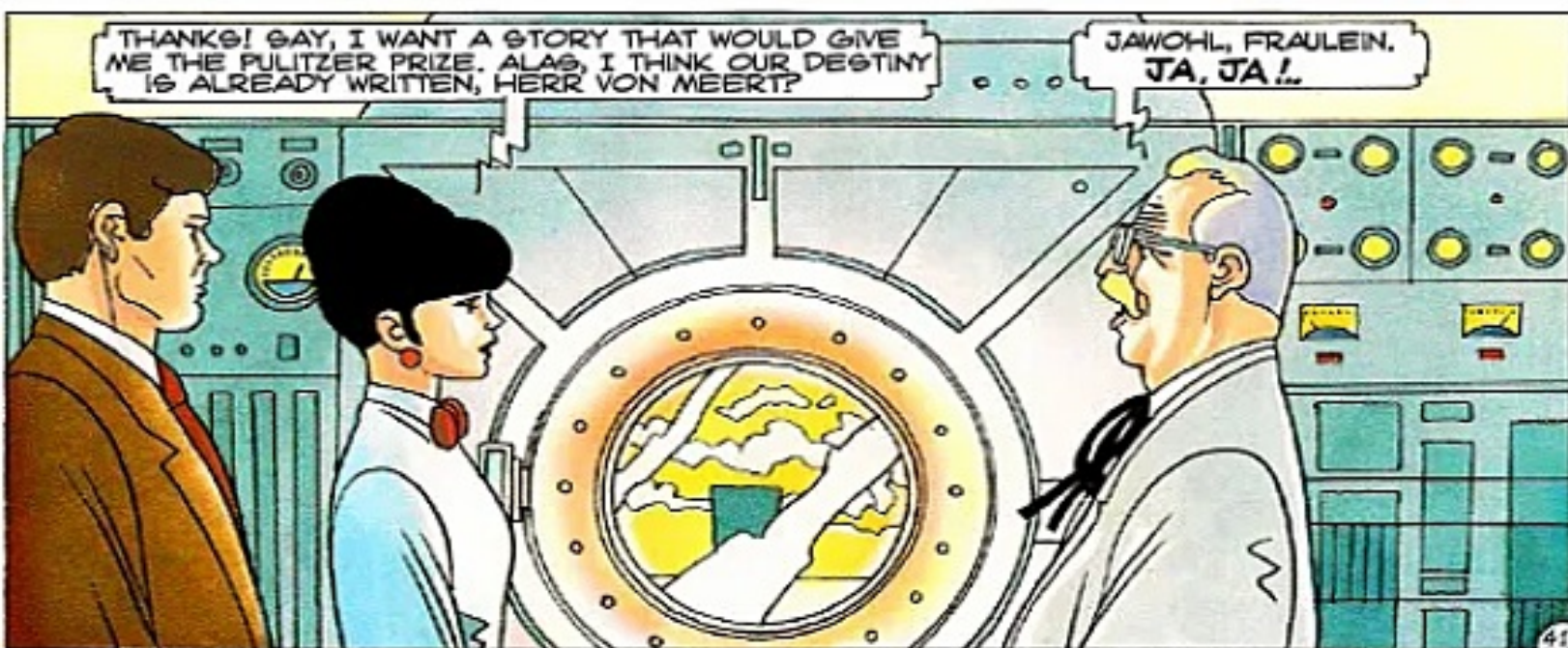
ONE QUESTION, VON MEERT: YOU'RE  
GOING TO PRODUCE TONS OF GOLD  
TO SUPPORT THE THIRD REICH. HOW  
FAST DO YOU INTEND TO MAKE IT  
IF THIS EXPERIMENT SUCCEEDS?



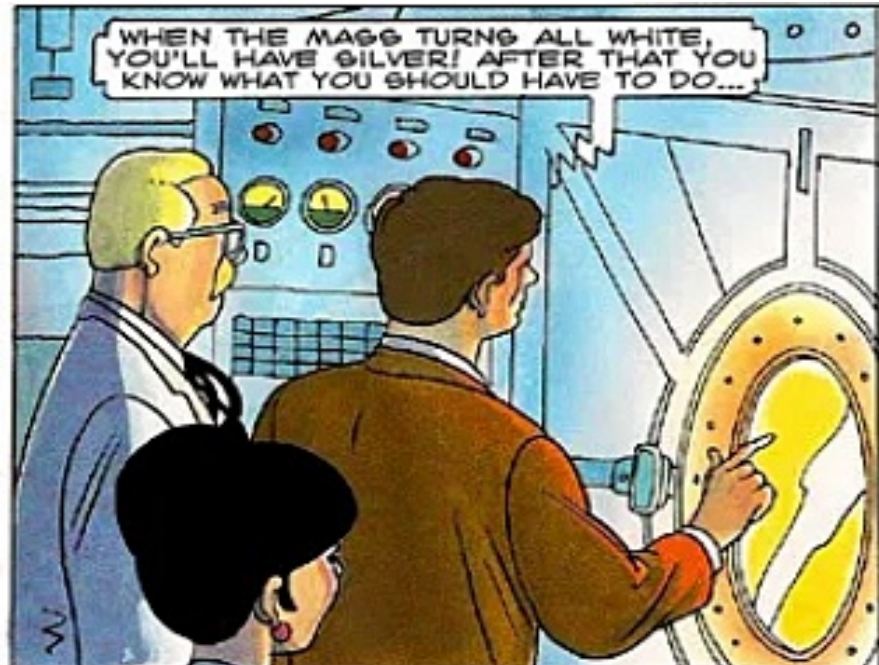
ONE TON PER MONTH! ARE YOU  
SATISFIED FRAULEIN SMIRNOVA?



THANKS! SAY, I WANT A STORY THAT WOULD GIVE  
ME THE PULITZER PRIZE. ALAS, I THINK OUR DESTINY  
IS ALREADY WRITTEN, HERR VON MEERT?



JAWOHL, FRAULEIN.  
JA, JA!..





RUN, EVERYTHING IS  
GOING TO EXPLODE!!!



WHAT HAPPENED? WHY AN EXPLOSION?



IT'S THE  
POWDER, THE  
REAL ONE,  
THE ONE THAT  
EXPLODES!



I WANT THEM ALIVE!  
SCHNELL!..



OOPS!..





